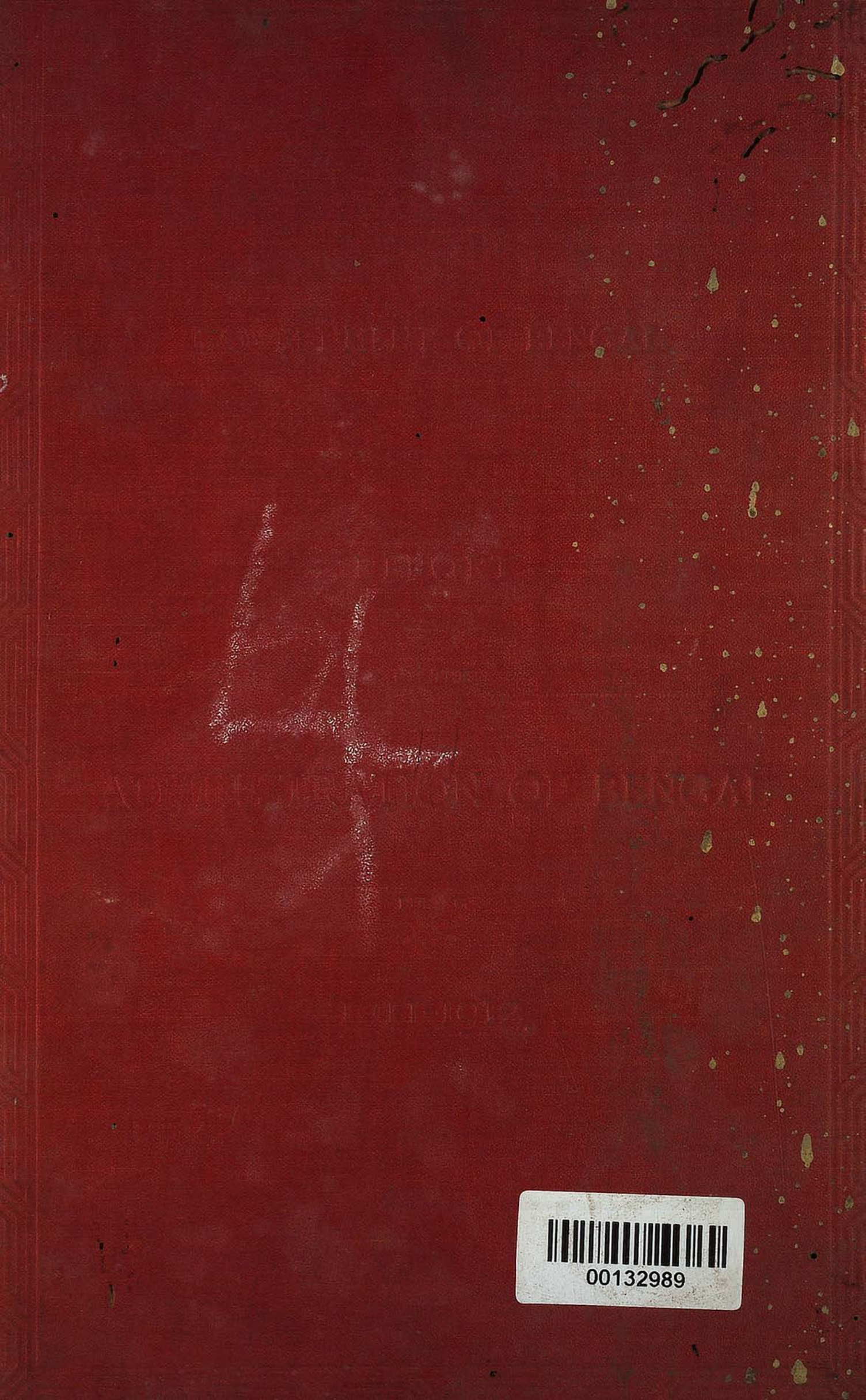
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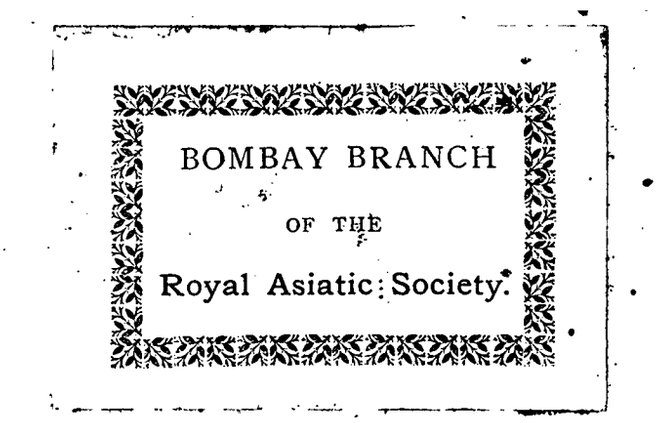

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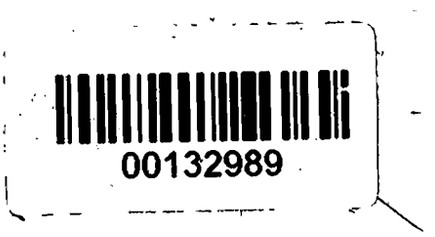
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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL.

1911-1912.

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1911-1912.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENTS AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL AND HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM DURING 1911-1912.

Head-quarters of Governments.

Of the territories comprised within the Presidency of Bengal as constituted on 1st April 1912, the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions were administered during the year 1911-12 by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions by the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Darjeeling was the head-quarters of the Government of Bengal from the 10th April to the 8th July, and again from the 2nd September to the 7th November. For the remainder of the year Calcutta was the seat of Government.

Shillong was the head-quarters of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam from the 9th April to the 16th July, and again from the 19th September to the 13th November. For the rest of the year the head-quarters were at Dacca.

Lieutenant-Governors' tours,—

Bengal.

2. The usual monsoon tour of the year commenced on the 25th of July. His Honour arrived at Murshidabad on the 30th of July, and left for Berhampore on the day following. At Berhampore His Honour opened the Krishnanath College School building and the Grant Hall—a public building and library just constructed in place of an old one from funds supplied by Raja Rao Jogendra Narayan Ray Bahadur of Lalgola. His Honour also opened the new Eye Ward attached to the Charitable Dispensary and Hospital there, which was also a gift of the Raja. His Honour left Berhampore on the 2nd August and arrived at Calcutta on the 3rd August, visiting Plassey on the way. On his way down from Darjeeling in November His Honour visited Cooch Behar to instal His Highness Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur. His Honour arrived at Calcutta on the 10th of November. On the 2nd December His Honour left Calcutta for Delhi to attend Their Imperial Majesties' Coronation Durbar, returning on the morning of the 19th December.

Eastern Bengal.

In September Sir Charles Bayley paid a visit to Simla, arriving there on the 8th and leaving on the 15th. In the latter part of November His Honour visited Jalpaiguri on his way to Delhi where he arrived on the 2nd December. In March His Honour visited Comilla,

Chittagong and Barisal. His Honour opened the Husania Girls' School at Comilla and the water-works at Barisal.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Lieutenant-Governors.

3. During the year there was a change in the Lieutenant-Governorships of both provinces. His Honour Sir Edward Baker, K.C.S.I., went on leave for four months on the 14th July, and the Hon'ble Mr. F. W. Duke, C.S.I., acted as Lieutenant-Governor in his place. Sir Edward Baker resigned on the 21st September, and the Hon'ble Mr. Duke held the office of Lieutenant-Governor substantively *pro tempore* during the rest of the year.

His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, on the expiration of his term of office on the 22nd of August, was succeeded by His Honour Sir Charles Bayley, who was Lieutenant-Governor during the rest of the year.

Executive Council.

4. The Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, C.S.I., was appointed a temporary Member of the Executive Council in place of the Hon'ble Mr. Duke.

Board of Revenue.

5. Consequent on the creation of an Executive Council for the province of Bengal in 1910, the Board was placed temporarily in charge of one Member, and its ultimate abolition was contemplated. It has since been decided by the Secretary of State to retain permanently a Board of one Member with one Secretary. Revenue work has accordingly been distributed between the Secretariat and the Board, so as to reduce the work of the Board to an amount with which a single Member can cope.

Reconstitution of Bengal and appointment of a Governor-in-Council.

6. With effect from the 1st April 1912, Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa were placed under a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, a Chief Commissioner was appointed for Assam, and the territories consisting of the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions (along with the district of Darjeeling) of Bengal were constituted into the Presidency of Bengal under a Governor-in-Council. The Right Hon'ble Baron Carmichael of Skirling, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor, and the following three gentlemen were appointed Members of the Executive Council :—

The Hon'ble Sir Frederick William Duke, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. Percy Comyn Lyon, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Maulvi Saiyid Shams-ul-Huda, M.A., B.L., Vakil, High Court.

STATES HAVING DIRECT POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

Hill Tippera.

7. The continuance of the appointment of Political Agent in Hill Tippera was sanctioned for a further period of two years, with effect from the 16th June 1912.

Cooch Behar.

8. His Highness Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.B., died in England on the 18th September 1911, and was succeeded by his eldest son, His Highness Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, who was installed at the head-quarters of the State by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 8th November 1911.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The agricultural classes.

9. The year was a prosperous one for the agricultural classes. In the greater portion of the Presidency the outturn of the main crops was good, and high prices ruled throughout the year. The crops in parts of Tippera, Noakhali and Birbhum were damaged by floods, but timely relief was given. The year was a bad one for the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, owing to the failure of the *jhum* paddy crop and the ravages caused by swarms of rats. Agricultural loans were granted to relieve the distress. In the rest of the Presidency conditions were satisfactory.

Wages and salaries.

10. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was good, and high wages were obtainable all over the Presidency. The rise in the wages of the labouring classes has of late been marked, and has more than kept pace with the rise in the price of food-grains. The high prices of food and labour press heavily, however, on those members of the middle classes who depend on small fixed incomes. There is no marked tendency towards a general rise in the salaries obtainable by the educated classes. The supply exceeds the demand, and increased competition keeps the salaries down.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and cess.

11. There was an increase of Rs. 2,02,901 in the land revenue demand. The total collections were good, being much the same as in previous years. There was an increase of Rs. 14,309 in current demand for road and public works cesses. Collections were slightly better than in the previous year, and both the general and district averages were good.

Delegation of powers to sanction abatements of revenue and rent.

12. In Western Bengal the orders regarding the powers of Commissioners to sanction abatements of revenue and rent have been revised. Collectors have been empowered to sanction abatements in all estates managed directly by Government and in other temporarily-settled estates, in regard to which they are competent to confirm the settlement. Commissioners have been authorized to sanction abatements in other temporarily-settled estates and also in permanently-settled estates where the abatement is required on account of Land Acquisition proceedings.

Exemption of lands devoted to public purposes from assessment of land revenue.

13. The restrictions previously imposed on the power of Local Governments to exempt from assessment of revenue lands granted to private individuals and local bodies for roads and sites of hospitals, dispensaries and schools and the like, which yield no return to the grantees and are devoted to public purposes, were withdrawn by the Government of India, and Local Governments were also empowered to delegate this power to such officers as might be specially designated for the purpose.

Revision of land revenue of Government and temporarily-settled estates in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Mymensingh.

14. The revision of the land revenue in all Government estates and temporarily-settled private estates in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur and Mymensingh, of which the terms of settlement had already expired or were about to expire, was undertaken by the officers of the Settlement Department, who were engaged in carrying out the general survey and preparation of records-of-rights of those districts.

SURVEYS.

Diara survey, Midnapore.

15. In connection with the general survey and settlement operations in the district of Midnapore, a survey was ordered to be made for the diara lands in that district, with a view to the assessment to revenue of lands which had accreted to estates since the revenue survey of 1872-75.

Reorganization of the ministerial and menial establishments of the Bengal Survey Department.

16. As a consequence of the creation in 1909 of a separate Provincial Survey Department for Bengal, the ministerial and menial staff belonging to the Survey of India at that time employed in Bengal were taken into the Provincial Service. The members of the staff were thus deprived of the promotions and increments which they would in the usual course have received from the Surveyor-General, and in many cases suffered considerable loss. To mitigate the hardship that had been caused, and to provide reasonable prospects, the ministerial and menial establishment of the Bengal Survey Department was, with the sanction of the Government of India, reorganized during the year on a revised scale of pay.

Arrangements for the control of survey work in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam.

17. In connection with the administrative changes, which took effect from 1st April 1912, the Government of India decided that, as a temporary measure, the existing Directors of Surveys should continue to supervise the same area, and be subject to the same arrangements as regards head-quarters, etc., as before, the necessary adjustment being made in the budgets of the provinces of Assam, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, so that the expenditure would be equitably divided between them. Detailed instructions were issued in regard to the adjustment of the charges of the Controlling offices, and of the Drawing offices at Shillong and Calcutta.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Cost of surveys and records-of-rights in permanently-settled districts.

18. The Government of India suggested a revision of the existing arrangements for financing important operations in connection with original surveys and records-of-rights in permanently-settled areas in Bengal, under which the whole cost is advanced from the Imperial revenues, and three-fourths of it is recovered from the landlords and tenants, the Provincial Government being responsible for any deficit in these recoveries. In certain instances the actual cost had much exceeded the estimates, and the Government of India complained that, while finding themselves burdened with a larger charge than had been contemplated, they had no means of checking the expenditure. They, therefore, proposed that, if the one-fourth share payable by the State exceeds in any particular instance one-fourth of the original sanctioned estimate, the excess will be charged to the Provincial revenues.

A thorough examination has in consequence been undertaken of the estimates made and expenditure incurred in connection with all important survey and settlement operations now in progress, and the subject is still under the consideration of Government.

Reduction of court-fees chargeable on copies of records-of-rights.

19. Complaints having been received of the heavy cost incurred in obtaining certified copies of the record-of-rights, a representation on the subject was made to the Government of India, which, in order to popularise the use of the record-of-rights in legal proceedings, reduced to eight annas the court-fees in excess of eight annas chargeable under the Court-fees Act on certified copies of entries in a record-of-rights of a village or a portion thereof.

Maintenance of land records in Eastern Bengal districts.

20. Mr. N. D. Beatson Bell, who was placed on special duty by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to draw up a scheme for the maintenance of land records in the districts of the Dacca Division, submitted his report late in the year under review. No action was taken on it by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which left it for the present Government of Bengal to deal with.

Increased powers of Local Governments regarding settlement appointments.

21. In accordance with the recommendation of the Decentralisation Commission, the powers of this Government as regards the creation of settlement appointments were increased, full power being given to sanction the number and duration of temporary appointments in any settlement, subject to the rules issued in 1895, regarding the rates of the allowances to be drawn.

WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards.

22. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year to the post of Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards being made permanent and pensionable on a salary of Rs. 800—25—1,000, with a personal allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem to the present incumbent.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

23. The Act is reported to have worked smoothly on the whole but it is doubtful whether the absence of friction is not due in a good many areas to ignorance of the provisions of the Act. The exaction of *abwabs* or illegal cesses is still deplorably common, but the extension of settlement operations and the preparation of records-of-rights are teaching the raiyats their rights and encouraging them to resist the levy of unlawful dues. It is reported that the revised procedure for the payment of landlords' fees is working satisfactorily and has effected considerable improvement.

Rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

24. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Government rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act were revised in the light of a season's experience, and altered so as to legalise the entry of cess in records-of-rights. The revised rules were approved and published by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government in July 1911.

Reduction of court-fees on plaints under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

25. In order to mitigate the hardship that was likely to result from the High Court ruling to the effect that the court-fee on a plaint under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was leviable at the rate of Rs. 10, the Government of India reduced the fee on such plaints to the amount of an *ad valorem* fee, chargeable under Article I of Schedule I of the Court-fees Act, in cases where the amount of such fee would be less than ten rupees.

Extension of the Bengal Settled Estates Act III (B.C.) of 1904.

26. On the application of the Hon'ble Maulvi Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari, in the district of Mymensingh, the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam granted him permission in May 1911 to make settlement of his estate under the Bengal Settled Estates Act III (B. C.) of 1904, and the deed of settlement executed by him was published by that Government in the following August. This is the second estate which has been brought under the operation of the Act since its enactment in 1904.

Comparative failure of the Bengal Settled Estates Act.

27. In 1909 enquiries were made by the Government of India as to whether the comparative failure of the Bengal Settled Estates Act, 1904, was due to the fact that it gave the Local Government undue powers of interference in the family affairs of the classes whom it was intended to benefit, and, if not, why it was so little used. A committee was appointed by this Government in 1911 to enquire into the matter, and from their report it was evident that the causes of the unpopularity of the Act were fundamental, both Hindus and Muhammadans regarding their own laws as sacrosanct and looking with disfavour on any purely secular device for interference with the recognised rules of inheritance. It was clear that this reluctance to use the provisions of the Act could not be removed by legislation, and in this Government's reply to the Government of India it was stated that it was not proposed to take up the amendment of the Act.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

28. During the year 1911-12, five Acts (Nos. III, IV and V of 1911 and I and II of 1912) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council and four (No. I of 1911 and Nos. I, II and III of 1912) by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council. The most important of these Acts are the Calcutta Improvement Act and the Mining Settlements Act. Each Act is mentioned under the head "Course of Legislation" in Part II of this Report.

Bills transferred to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

29. After the close of the year five Bills were transferred to the Government of Bihar and Orissa. These also are mentioned under the head "Course of Legislation" in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

Reorganization of the Civil Police in Eastern Bengal

30. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the scheme for the reorganization of the Civil Police which had been prepared by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. By this scheme a much needed increase will be made both to the number of officers and men employed, and to the number of investigating centres.

River Police scheme.

31. The constitution of an effective force of River Police is essential for efficient police administration in Eastern Bengal with its vast waterways. The partial measures already taken to control the waterways have met with distinct success, and steps are being taken to introduce as quickly as possible the River Police scheme to which the sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year. Under this scheme 27 thanas will be opened, and a force of 341 officers and men under a Superintendent with 36 launches will be employed. A beginning has been made, and four floating thanas and seven patrol boats are now at work.

Circle officers to supervise panchayati and chaukidari work.

32. The system of appointing selected officers to the charge of certain areas to be known as circles to supervise panchayati and chaukidari work was tried as an experimental measure in Western Bengal during the last cold weather, The general result of the experiment appears to show that in the absence of close and constant supervision the existing President system has seriously deteriorated. The increased supervision provided by the system has improved chaukidari administration, and the experiment will be continued on a more extended scale. Eastern Bengal does not possess an efficient agency in the form of President Panchayats, and before the system is introduced there measures are being taken for the organization and supervision of such an agency in those districts which possess a suitable class of men.

Military Police.

33. A Bill for the Regulation of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police was prepared for introduction into the Provincial Legislative Council.

Political crime.

34. The beginning of the year in Bengal was marred by the assassination of Head-constable Srish Chandra Chakravarti, followed ten days later by the attempted bomb outrage at Writers' Buildings. Since then there has been no serious political crime in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. But political offences were still prevalent in the Eastern Bengal districts. There were four cases of assassination, two of the victims being Police officers ; while in the remaining two cases three men who had rendered help to the police were murdered in a most brutal manner. Dacoities in which members of the respectable classes were concerned increased, especially in the Dacca Division. Forty-six persons were tried in what is known as the Dacca conspiracy case, of whom 14 were ultimately convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

35. There was an increase in the number of reported offences, while the number of cases which were found to be false or in which complaints were dismissed was slightly less than in the previous year.

The number of cases committed for trial or referred to the Courts of Session was 80 less than in 1910, but there was an increase of 70 appeals. In the Eastern Bengal districts, however, a slight increase occurred in the original; and a small decrease in the appellate, work which came before those courts. The average duration of Sessions trials was higher than in the previous year. The number of appeals preferred to and decided by the High Court was less than in the preceding year. The pending file, however, shows a slight increase. Of the 47 references from the verdicts of juries disposed of by the High Court, the verdict of the jury was accepted in 13 and set aside in 28 cases. Three cases involving 16, 46 and 6 persons, respectively, pending from the previous year, for trial by Special Benches under Act XIV of 1908, were disposed of during the year. The average duration of each case was 192 days.

JAILS.

Release of convicts.

36. The Government of India delegated to the Local Government the authority to sanction, under section 401, Criminal Procedure Code, the release of convicts sentenced to undergo transportation in the penal settlement of Port Blair.

Deportation of male term-convicts to Port Blair.

37. The Government of India decided to permit the resumption of the deportation of male term-convicts, which was suspended in 1906, on the condition that the unexpired portion of the sentence at the time of their deportation was not less than six years.

The Circle reserve system of warders.

38. The system of maintaining a Circle reserve of warders was continued as an experimental measure. The Inspector-General of Prisons is reconsidering the matter in the light of the altered conditions of the Presidency.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

39. The year was marked by a further increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts both in Bengal and in Eastern Bengal. There was a considerable increase in the disposal of cases, both contested and uncontested, by Munsifs, in spite of which the pending file rose as regards both the total and the number pending more than a year. There was a large increase of the appellate arrears, owing to a diminution in the outturn of all classes of courts. The smaller outturn of both original and appellate work by District and Additional District Judges is accounted for by the fact that, owing to the pressure of criminal work, they were able to devote to civil work 2,614 days only, or 255 less than in 1910. Subordinate Judges disposed of fewer appeals, but more original suits than in the preceding year. There was a further increase in the number of appeals pending on the appellate side of the High Court. In this connexion it may be observed that three Judges were occupied for 65 days on Special Benches constituted under Act XIV of 1908, and that the pressure of criminal work necessitated the formation of additional Criminal Benches in August and September, and again from November 20th to the end of the year.

REGISTRATION.

40. Revised rules under section 69 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 (XVI of 1908), were published by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. **Revision of rules framed under section 69 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908.**

41. The table of registration fees was revised and received the approval of the Governor-General in Council. **Revision of the table of registration fees.**

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

42. The Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911 (Bengal Act V of 1911), was brought into force on the 2nd January 1912. **Introduction of the Calcutta Improvement Act V of 1911.**

43. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee appointed to consider proposals for the reorganization of the Calcutta Fire Brigade, that an expert Superintendent should be obtained from England who would be in a position to advise as to the permanent reorganization of the Brigade, Mr. B. A. Westbrook, an officer of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Fire Brigade, was appointed to be Chief Officer of the Calcutta Fire Brigade. **Reorganization of the Calcutta Fire Brigade.**

44. With a view to encourage District Boards to deal with the subject of providing better water in rural areas systematically and liberally to the best of their ability, a system was introduced of granting to District Boards an annual contribution from Provincial revenues equivalent to one-third of the expenditure incurred by those bodies in any year upon the improvement of the local water-supply up to a maximum in each case of Rs. 3,000. **Contribution from Provincial revenues towards the improvement of water-supply in rural areas.**

45. The views of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the various proposals, contained in Chapter XIX of the Report of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization dealing with the subject of rural boards, were furnished to the Government of India. **Recommendation of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization on the subject of rural boards.**

MARINE.

46. One thousand seven hundred and eight vessels with a gross tonnage of 67,65,071 visited the port against 1,670 vessels with a gross tonnage of 63,75,289 in the previous year. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 14,76,000 against Rs. 14,37,370 in 1910-11. While shipments and discharges of seamen under the Indian articles increased, those under European articles decreased. **Port of Calcutta**

47. The income of the Trust amounted to Rs. 1,35,71,893, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,33,20,425. The capital debt stood at Rs. 8,49,51,211, against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 10,89,63,392. **Calcutta Port Trust.**

48. The Chittagong Port Trust passed under the administrative control of this Government from the 1st April 1912 as a result of the territorial redistribution. The income of the ordinary Port Fund amounted to Rs. 1,89,128 against Rs. 1,34,928 in the previous year, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,73,682. The income was supplemented by a grant of Rs. 50,000 from Government. Three hundred and eighty-eight **Chittagong Port Trust.**

vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 3,67,048 visited the port against 378 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 3,55,293 in the previous year.

The Agency for Government Consignments.

49. The total receipts of the Agency for Government Consignments were Rs. 2,69,782, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,44,103.

Boiler Commission.

50. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879, were extended to the municipality of Jamalpur, with effect from the 1st January 1912.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Extension of the area under jute cultivation, and the improvement of the jute forecast.

51. During the year the Indian Jute Mills Association raised the question of extending the area under jute cultivation, and urged the desirability of having a department of Government created solely for the purpose of supervising the extension of jute cultivation. Government however decided that the proposed Jute Department would not fulfil the object in view, and therefore found themselves unable to support the proposals. In replying to the Association, it was suggested that closer co-operation between the members of the jute industry and the Department of Agriculture in this and all other matters relating to the improvement of the jute crop was of prime importance, and that much more could be done for the prosperity of the industry by practical work on these lines than by the creation of a special department of Government. The improvement of the jute forecast was the subject of frequent consideration and discussion. An experiment was made after the close of the year in obtaining detailed reports from the *panchayats* as to the area under jute in each union. The results obtained are now being tested.

Appointment of an expert in Sericulture.

52. The Silk Committee continued to devote its attention to the supply of pure and healthy seed to the rearers, and for this purpose the appointment was made for a period of three years of a French expert in hybridisation.

The system of central nurseries where pure seed can be raised under efficient supervision is being extended, and there are now 19 nurseries or rearing houses with mulberry plantations attached to each. The opening of central nurseries has entailed the closing of some of the smaller nurseries.

FISHERIES.

Organization of a Fisheries Department.

53. Mr. T. Southwell, who was appointed by the Secretary of State to fill the post of Deputy Director of Fisheries, joined his post in December, 1911. The main work undertaken by the Fishery officers was the prosecution of inquiries both in Bengal and Bihar into the habits of carp, *hilsa* and *bheri*. These inquiries have to be carried on

jointly in the two provinces, as the *hilsa*-hatchery at Monghyr and the carp-breeding stations at Cuttack and Bankipore all lie in the province of Bihar and Orissa. For research work a laboratory was established at the Indian Museum, where materials collected in both provinces have been the subject of examination and experiment. During the cold weather the two Superintendents of Fisheries were employed on the survey of the districts of Murshidabad and Patna, respectively, with a view to obtain a first-hand knowledge of the present condition of fisheries and fish-supply.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Societies Act.

54. The new Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 (II of 1912), came into force from 1st March 1912. Among its main features are provisions for the registration of societies other than purely Credit Societies, and the recognition of Central Banking Unions, *i.e.*, societies, the component parts of which are other societies, and of "Central Banks," the main object of which is to benefit other societies of a co-operative character. The new rules necessitated by the passing of the new Act and by the reconstitution of the province are at present under the consideration of Government.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

55. The total rainfall in Eastern Bengal was above the normal, but damage by flood was inconsiderable. Good showers fell in Bengal throughout the year. The outturn of *bhadoi* crops was on the whole fair. The jute harvest was a good one, and winter rice and sugarcane gave excellent yields. Conditions were not favourable for spring crops, the yield being 80 per cent. of the normal.

FORESTS.

Relation between forests and the retention of atmospheric and soil moisture.

56. In April 1911 the Government of India proposed that enquiries should be undertaken in selected areas to ascertain (*i*) the local differences in the rainfall, temperature and humidity inside and outside forest areas, (*ii*) the local differences in the level of the underground water-table in areas near to, and far from, forest lands, respectively, and (*iii*) the local differences in the height and duration of floods after similar amounts and durations of rainfall in channels fed from forest and non-forest areas, respectively. As it was necessary that the observations required under each head should be taken with great care, and would entail a certain amount of additional expenditure, the Government of India considered that it would probably be sufficient to start experiments in two or three places in India in respect of each of the above questions. Each Conservator of Forests was required to report what places in his Circle were most suitable for the purpose, and to advice regarding the manner in which the experiments should be carried out and the agency which should be employed. So far as the forests now falling within the Bengal Presidency are concerned, it was reported that there was no suitable area

where experiments likely to furnish any important or trustworthy results could be made.

Permission to *bona fide* tiger-hunters to shoot deer in the Sundarbans during the close season.

57. As it was found that the rules enjoining a close season for deer within the reserved forests of Bengal operated as a deterrent to sportsmen who visit the Sundarbans with the primary object of shooting tiger, inasmuch as the rules prevent them from shooting deer for purposes of food, the Divisional Forest Officer in the Sundarbans has been empowered as an experimental measure to permit *bonâ fide* tiger-hunters to shoot a limited number of chital stags, not exceeding one stag per week for each party during the close season. This concession extends to those localities only in which the loss of human life from tigers is very great. The question of the wider extension of this concession will depend on the success of the present experiment.

Deforestation in the district of Darjeeling.

58. The report of the Committee which was appointed in the previous year to investigate the question of deforestation in the district of Darjeeling and to suggest remedial measures was received during the year. The Committee recommended the undertaking of legislation to check the effects of deforestation and denudation, a survey of the river-beds throughout the district, and other measures. The Committee's proposals regarding legislation were referred to the local land-holders, and their views are now under the consideration of Government. Steps are being taken to carry out the other remedial measures suggested by the Committee.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Review of the year's work.

59. The jute industry is recovering from the over-production from which it suffered two years ago. The demand for jute goods has re-asserted itself: prices ruled high throughout the year: the year's crop, which was probably a record one, was almost completely consumed, and the mills are now in a favourable position. The quantity of tea manufactured continued to increase, and the foreign exports by sea were valued at over 11 crores of rupees, which is the highest figure yet recorded. The revival of the coal-industry continued, and the value of the iron and steel goods produced rose enormously. The sugar industry received a temporary fillip owing to the high prices that prevailed, but the silk industry declined still further.

WORKING OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

Revision of rules under the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911).

60. In June 1911 the Government of India suggested that, as the new Factories Act (XII of 1911) would come into force on 1st July 1912, the preparation of rules to be made under it should be taken in hand at once, so that they could be published for criticism and be ready for adoption when the Act came into force. A Committee was appointed, consisting of both official and non-official members, to prepare revised rules on the model suggested by the Government of India. After exhaustive discussion, the draft rules were published on the 11th March 1912 for criticism. The rules were finally approved in June 1912.

Strengthening of the factory inspecting staff

61. Owing to the rapidity with which the industries of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam have developed within recent years, the inspecting staff which had hitherto consisted of only one permanent Inspector (aided since 1909 by Mr. J. Cowan, a temporarily-appointed Assistant Inspector) was considered inadequate to perform properly the duties which would be required under the new Factories Act. Accordingly the Secretary of State on 26th April 1912 sanctioned the appointment of two additional permanent Inspectors of Factories on a salary of Rs. 400—30—700 per mensem each. Mr. Cowan was appointed to one of these posts, and Mr. D. B. Mann, late of the Opium Department, to the other.

TRADE.

Foreign trade.

62. The value of the sea-borne trade of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted (merchandise only) in 1911-12 was Rs. 143·83 crores against Rs. 131·43 crores in 1910-11, an improvement of Rs. 12·4 crores or nearly 9·4 per cent. Of this total, the share of Calcutta amounted to Rs. 137·85 crores as compared with Rs. 126·39 crores in the preceding year. Both the grand total for the province as a whole and the total for Calcutta, exclusive of the subordinate ports, surpassed the record figures of 1910-11, and thus constitute a fresh record.

Imports.

63. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 51·98 crores, the expansion being one of 7·1 per cent. There are seven classes (viz., I.—Animals living, II.—Articles of food and drink, III.—Metals and manufactures of metals, IV.—Chemicals, drugs, etc., V.—Oils, VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles, and VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured) into which articles are grouped for statistical purposes. Of these six, namely, classes I, III, IV, V, VI and VII, are marked by an increase. Towards the year's total, yarns and textile fabrics, the leading group in class VII, contributed, as in previous years, the largest sum; and it accounted also for Rs. 229·63 lakhs or 66·8 per cent. of the total increase of Rs. 3·44 crores. Metals and manufactures of metals come next with a contribution of Rs. 10·15 crores or 19·5 per cent. of the total. Of the items that make up this class, machinery and mill-work is the only important one marked by a decrease. The class 'Articles of food and drink' holds the third place in point of value with 15 per cent. Sugar, with a total of Rs. 5·21 crores, represents 67 per cent. of the value of this class. The contributions of the other classes, namely, V, IV, VI and I, were 3·5, 2·3, 1·2 and 0·4 per cent., respectively. Of the total imports, 69·19 per cent. was received from the United Kingdom as compared with 67·48 per cent. in 1910-11. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were—Java 9·7, Germany 4·85, the United States of America 3·2, the Straits Settlements 2·2, Japan 1·98, Austria-Hungary 1·36, and Belgium 1·2 per cent.

Exports.

64. The total value of exports from the Presidency was Rs. 91·21 crores, an advance of Rs. 8·86 crores, or 10·7 per cent. Of this trade Calcutta claims about 95 per cent. Jute continued to be

the dominant staple of the export trade, its contribution to the total being 42 per cent. Grain and pulse, tea, hides and skins, oilseeds, opium and lac are other items in each of which the trade exceeded a crore of rupees. All of them, except opium and lac, show increased values. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 28·71 per cent. of the exports from Calcutta. The United States held the second place with 15·25 per cent., Germany came third with 11·3 per cent. and China appropriated this year the fourth place with 5·5 per cent.

Trans-frontier trade.

65. The value of the trans-frontier trade of Bengal in merchandise only was Rs. 147 lakhs. Of the entire trade of the year some 67 per cent. was with Nepal, while the shares of Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan were 17, 15 and 1 per cent., respectively. The total trade with Nepal amounted to Rs. 97 lakhs. Imports into Bengal from Nepal were valued at Rs. 49 lakhs. Of this, living animals, hides, cattle, provisions, fruits, vegetables and nuts, spices and horns account for Rs. 47 lakhs. Exports from Bengal to Nepal comprise mainly cotton manufactures, oils, metals and manufactures of metals, sugar, grain and pulse, tobacco, spices and salt. The trade with Tibet amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs. The leading articles of import were raw wool, skins of sheep, etc., musk and yak's tails, while the chief exports were cotton piece-goods, woollen piece-goods and tobacco. Imports from Sikkim were valued at Rs. 11·96 lakhs, while the total value of exports to that country amounted to Rs. 10·89 lakhs. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 1,70,000.

Coasting trade.

66. The value of the coasting trade of the newly constituted province showed a recovery in the year under review, the total rising from Rs. 2,060 to Rs. 2,311 lakhs, or 12·1 per cent. Of the total trade of Rs. 2,311 lakhs, 51·7 per cent. represents trade with Burma, 16·5 per cent. with Madras, 22·2 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, and 1·9 per cent. with non-British ports. The restricted receipts of paddy and rice and mineral oil from Burma, but increased imports of ground-nuts from Madras, raw cotton from Burma and cotton twist and yarn from Bombay were again a feature of the year's trade. Jute manufactures and coal maintained the leading rank in the list of exports. Heavy shipments of grain and pulse, especially rice, were made during the year.

Rail and river borne trade.

67. The value of the trade carried by rail and river amounted to Rs. 181 crores in 1911-12. Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 59 crores. Tea (Indian) was the leading staple of the import trade; oil-seeds, grain and pulse, hides and skins, silk (raw), railway materials and coal and coke were the other important articles of this trade. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces amounted to Rs. 40·85 crores. The principal articles of export were cotton goods, metals (mainly iron and steel), sugar, gunny-bags and oils.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

Reorganization.

68. The Engineer establishment was reorganized by the amalgamation in one list of the separate Imperial and Provincial cadres, by

equalizing the period of promotion to the executive rank in both services and by increasing the pay of Provincial Engineers. In consequence of the transfer of almost all irrigation works to the new province of Bihar and Orissa, Bengal has been deprived of its Irrigation Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government. The number of Public Works circles and divisions has also been reduced from 7 and 21 to 5 and 16 respectively, and a corresponding reduction has been made in the number of Superintending Engineers, Executive and Assistant Engineers and Upper and Lower Subordinates.

Language examination.

69. It has also been decided that the examination of Public Works Department officers in languages should be conducted under the control of the Central Examination Committee in future at the same time as the departmental examination of Assistant Magistrates is held.

Assistant Architect.

70. In order to give the Consulting Architect necessary assistance in the preparation of architectural designs, an Assistant Architect has been appointed to help him.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial.

71. Of the Imperial works which were carried out and in progress during the year, the most important were the new Imperial Secretariat in Council House Street, which was completed, the extension of the Indian Museum, the extension of the Central Telegraph Office, the new Press buildings in Dhurrumtollah Street, the new Stamp and Stationery buildings in Church Lane, Calcutta, which were still in progress, and the new Salt Golas at Chittagong.

Provincial.

72. The chief Provincial works were—

(1) in connection with Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts, the construction of additional buildings for the Midnapore Collectorate, which were still in progress, a new Court-house for the Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri, and extensions of the Barisal Collectorate;

(2) in connection with Civil Courts, the extension of the Civil Court buildings, Khulna, a new Judge's Court, extensive alterations to the existing Court buildings at Comilla, and a Sessions Court at Jalpaiguri;

(3) the several projects in connection with the establishment of a Provincial head-quarters at Dacca;

(4) for the Jail Department, the new Presidency Jail, Alipore, including the Press blocks, the extension of the Khulna Jail and the construction of a Hospital in the Krishnagar Jail;

(5) for the Police Department, the construction of the Central Police Training School at Sarda in the district of Rajshahi;

(6) among educational works, the construction of the Curzon Hall attached to the Dacca College, the addition of two wings to the Science block of the Chittagong College, and the construction of a Physics Laboratory at the Presidency College, Calcutta;

(7) as regards medical works, the construction of dispensary buildings in the new civil station at Dacca, the 4th or

Administrative block, Medical College, Calcutta, which was completed, and the acquisition of premises No. 2, Convent Road, Entally (Calcutta), for the establishment of a depôt for the manufacture of vaccine lymph for the supply of the whole province, and also for the establishment of bacteriological and chemical laboratories in connection with the examination of the water-supply in Bengal; and

(8) under "Contribution works," the construction of a new surgical block in the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Bhawanipur, the erection of a memorial statue of Sir Andrew Fraser, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and the acquisition of land for the extension of the Senate House, Calcutta.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Darjeeling district.

73. The construction of the road to the Takdah Cantonment in the Darjeeling district was completed, and about three-fourths of the work of widening the Peshoke road leading from Ghoom to this road was carried out.

A Committee met and submitted their report to Government on the question of the safety of the station of Darjeeling and the afforestation of the slopes of the hills below.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

74. A fresh contract for the improved lighting of the roads on the Calcutta Maidan was made for a period of ten years with the Oriental Gas Company. Alterations were made at junctions where the Mayo and Napier statues stand to facilitate traffic on the Maidan roads.

Arrangements were made for the electric lighting of the streets in the Barrackpore Cantonment.

Dredging, scraping and bandalling were done during the year to improve the Bhagirathi entrance.

The drainage of the new civil station at Dacca was considerably improved.

River protective works were carried out at Barisal and Madaripur, and steps were taken to watch and record the erosive action of the river at Noakhali.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

75. During the year the most important contribution works were the completion of the Kurseong water-supply, improvements in the Kalimpong water-supply, trial borings for a water-supply at Pabna, Rampur-Boalia and Tangail, and the construction of a new Light House at Sagar Island.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

76. The Government of Bengal controls partially only five small light railways. The larger railway systems are entirely controlled by the Railway Board.

Mileage.

77. The total mileage of railways in the province on 31st March 1912 was 2,576. During the year 149·45 miles of railway on the

standard gauge and 87·21 miles on the metre gauge were under construction. The construction of 17·43 miles was also sanctioned.

78. The work on the Lower Ganges Bridge on the Eastern Bengal State Railway near Sara was in progress. **Sara Bridge.**

79. Several surveys for new lines were completed by the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the Bengal-Duars Railway, and the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. **Surveys.**

80. The Jessore-Jhenida Light Railway was under construction, and concessions were granted for the construction of extensions of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway from Siliguri to Kishanganj and to the Tista Bridge, and Messrs. Low & Co. were granted a concession for a line from Krishnagar to Jellinghi. All the existing light railways yielded a fair return on the capital expended. **Light Railways.**

CANALS.

81. The major irrigation works in Bengal are the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The area irrigated during the year was 80,975 acres as compared with 73,940 acres during the preceding year. The increase was due to insufficient rainfall, especially at the beginning of the irrigation season. The revenue from these two canals amounted to Rs. 2,77,835, or Rs. 15,703 more than that of the year 1910-11. The increase was principally in irrigation receipts. **Major works.**

82. The minor works for navigation are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bil Channel, a portion of the Orissa Coast Canal, the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighatta and Baxi khals, while the Eden Canal, which is classed under this head, is used for irrigation. The Uttarbhag Lock under construction in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme is treated as a minor work for navigation. Training works on the rivers Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga are also classed under this head. The capital outlay on works under this class for which capital accounts are kept to the end of the year stood at Rs. 1,14,90,417. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 6,28,513 against Rs. 4,35,635 in the year 1910-11. The increase is due to the development of traffic on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bil Channel. **Minor works.**

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

83. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 3,98,884 and on drainage works Rs. 2,43,451 during the year. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

84. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 14,73,21,000 and the charges to Rs. 1,08,19,000 against Rs. 18,03,06,000 and Rs. 85,08,000 **Imperial finance.**

respectively in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was chiefly under Opium, owing to lower prices obtained at the sales and to the smaller number of chests sold, and partly due to the provincialization of the head "Forests." The increase of expenditure was due to the division of the Irrigation Department charges equally between Imperial and Provincial revenues, and to larger expenditure on buildings.

OPIUM.

Trade in opium with China.

85. In connection with the trade in opium with China, it has been decided by the Government of India that all opium for which China certificates are issued in any calendar year should be shipped from Calcutta before the 15th of December in that year, and that in order to leave a reasonable margin of time for the actual export no certified opium should be put up for sale in November or December.

Trade in opium with other countries.

86. The British Minister at Pekin agreed to a proposal of the Chinese Government to exclude Indian opium from Manchuria, Szechen and Shansi. In order to check smuggling of opium by Chinese merchants, the Governor of Hong-Kong and the Colonial and Foreign offices approved the prohibition of the importation or transhipment of uncertified opium in Colonial waters, the opium required for consumption of the Hong-Kong population being exempted from this prohibition.

Recommendations of the International Opium Commission, Shanghai.

87. The resolutions of the International Opium Commission which met at Shanghai in 1909 have received the careful consideration of the Local and Imperial Governments. The principles underlying these resolutions have been cordially accepted, and since the close of the year action has been initiated to prohibit gatherings for the purpose of opium smoking, and to strengthen the control over the sale of opium by regulating the price throughout India on definite principles and by making the rules regarding morphia and allied compounds more stringent and definite.

EXCISE.

Establishment of a joint Customs and Excise testing station at the Port of Calcutta.

88. The Central Excise Laboratory at Kasauli was abolished with effect from the 1st January 1912; and in order to provide for the excise work which had hitherto been done there, combined Customs and Excise laboratories were established at the Custom Houses in the principal ports. The laboratory at Calcutta was constituted a control station for the rest of India; and, in addition to the ordinary analytical and other work of Bengal, Assam and the Northern Provinces, the more difficult cases from other ports are sent there for final disposal.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial finance.

89. The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 5,20,48,000 and Rs. 5,83,74,000, respectively, as against Rs. 4,72,89,000 and Rs. 5,32,36,000 in 1910-11. The receipts under Stamps, Excise and Registration increased owing to the increase of litigation, the general improvement in trade and the larger consumption of excisable articles attributable to the general prosperity. The increase of expenditure was mainly under Land

Revenue (General Administration), chiefly for charges on account of the Royal Visit, under Courts of Law for additional Judges in the High Court and payment of arrear increments of pay of ministerial officers, and under Police for reforms carried out during the year.

Provincial settlements.

90. On the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Decentralization regarding the financial relations between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, the Government of India with the approval of the Secretary of State for India made a *quasi*-permanent settlement with effect from the 1st April 1911. The chief alteration of the terms of the settlement was the conversion of a portion of the fixed assignment which this province received from the Imperial revenues into an additional share of growing revenues. The Provincial share of Excise as well as the corresponding refunds and compensations was raised from ½ to ¾, Forest revenue and expenditure as well as refunds were made wholly Provincial, and the revenue and expenditure under Irrigation which formerly were wholly Provincial are now divided in equal shares between Imperial and Provincial. A moiety of the Income-tax raised in the Public Works Department is now credited to the Provincial revenues. It was also decided to make the settlement a permanent one, so that no revision of the terms should be made except when the fixed assignments from Imperial to Provincial become unduly high and hamper the expansion of Provincial revenues compared with the legitimate growth of Provincial expenditure. On the territorial redistribution of the provinces with effect from 1st April 1912 a new temporary settlement was made for a term of three years, in the hope that after the expiry of this period it would be possible to gauge the needs of the new province of Bengal with sufficient accuracy to justify a permanent arrangement. The receipts and charges of the Excise Department have now been made wholly Provincial.

LOCAL FUNDS.

Local funds.

91. The total receipts of the Local funds amounted to Rs. 77,73,791 and the charges to Rs. 76,06,287, the closing balance being raised from Rs. 27,80,908 to Rs. 29,48,412. No new funds were opened during the year.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

Liability of Government to pay Road and Public Works cesses.

92. In September 1911 the Board of Revenue asked for a definite ruling as to whether Government was liable to pay out of the public revenues Road and Public Works cesses in respect of lands of which it was the proprietor, but which were not in the occupation of tenants, or, in other words, whether the provisions of section 7 of the Cess Act were applicable to such lands. The Legal Remembrancer, who was consulted, expressed the opinion that the general principle is that an Act does not impose a pecuniary burden upon Crown property unless the Crown is expressly named, or unless by necessary implication the Crown has agreed to be bound. Orders were accordingly issued that, in view of the liberal contributions made for roads and other works of improvement from the receipts in Government estates, it was not necessary

for Government to pay Road or Public Works cess in respect of unlet Government lands in khas possession, and that such lands need not be assessed to cess.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

Establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta.

93. To meet the necessity for a post-graduate course of tropical medicine for medical officers, proposals for the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine and for the provision of a Biological Laboratory at the Medical College, Calcutta, were under consideration during the year. The cost of the proposed scheme is estimated at Rs. 7,07,288.

Creation of a separate Professorship of Physics in the Medical College.

94. Since 1901 the Professor of Chemistry at the Medical College, Calcutta, has delivered a complete course in Physics with special reference to medical study. Owing to the introduction of the new University Regulations, it was found that this arrangement was not working well, and additional assistance of a temporary nature had to be given to the Professor of Chemistry for the teaching of Physics. Subsequently permanent arrangements were considered necessary for this purpose, and the appointment of a whole-time Professor of Physics on a pay of Rs. 400—20—800 was therefore created. The post will usually be filled by an officer of the Provincial Educational Service or by a Civil Assistant Surgeon, but, should it be necessary to appoint a private individual, the nature of the post will not be changed, *i.e.*, it will still remain a post belonging to one of the Provincial Services.

Improvement of pay of Civil Assistant Surgeons.

95. The concessions granted to Civil Assistant Surgeons in 1898, though valuable to Senior Assistant Surgeons, did not sufficiently improve the pay in the first years of service. Memorials were received urging the need for further improvement in the conditions of service, the principal complaint being the alleged inadequacy of pay. The matter was again taken into consideration, and in place of the existing scale of pay a time-scale was sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1912. In future after two years' service Assistant Surgeons will receive an annual increment of Rs. 10 until they reach the pay of Rs. 300 a month. Above that there are two grades on Rs. 325 and Rs. 350, ordinarily limited to 10 per cent. of the service and filled by selection from all officers who have completed 14 years' service. Appointments to Civil Surgeoncies on a pay of Rs. 350—30—500 remain open to members of the service.

Post-graduate training of medical subordinates.

96. In order to maintain the efficiency of medical practitioners employed in hospitals and dispensaries under the supervision of local bodies or private individuals, arrangements were made with effect from the 1st January 1912 to hold post-graduate courses at the several medical schools. The course lasts three months, and is conducted by the ordinary teaching staff of each institution. Each student is charged a

fee of Rs. 50, which is credited to Government, and the money so obtained is afterwards distributed as honoraria among the teaching staff.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Quinine.

97. Following the method introduced by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, arrangements were made to try (in the malarious districts of Jessore, Nadia and Murshidabad during the fever season of 1911-12) the system of distributiug quinine hydrochloride in "treatments" consisting of 20 four-grain tablets. One thousand parcels each containing ten "treatments" were obtained on special indent from the manufacturers in England and distributed through the agency of post-offices and selected vendors in the same way as quinine manufactured by Government is distributed. Four hundred and thirty-four of these parcels were sold from the central depôts of these districts during the fever season, and 499 parcels were supplied to the Civil Surgeons for gratuitous distribution by the itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to afford medical aid in these districts. Of the latter, 400 parcels were used exclusively in the Jessore district. These "treatments" are reported to be very popular, and it has been decided to continue the experiment. To test the relative popularity of hydrochloride and sulphate of quinine under exactly similar circumstances, 10,000 parcels of "treatments" of quinine sulphate have been indented for. They will be issued side by side with the hydrochloride "treatments" which they will resemble in every respect, and the same price will be charged for both.

EMIGRATION.

Revised arrangements for the working of the Assam Labour Emigration Act.

98. As a measure of decentralization, all officers in charge of districts were appointed to be Superintendents of Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for their own districts, with powers to issue licenses to recruiters, local agents and contractors under the Act. The Protector of Emigrants at Calcutta, whose jurisdiction as Superintendent of Emigration had hitherto included the whole of the old province of Bengal (excepting the Chota Nagpur Division and the districts of the Santal Parganas and Sambalpur), was appointed to be Superintendent of Emigration for the town of Calcutta, the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, and the Presidency Division.

Revision of the Emigration Manual.

99. The old Emigration Manual which had become cumbrous and out of date was revised. In the new edition notes were added to some of the more important sections, and the rules were re-arranged in a more convenient form. Opportunity was also taken to give effect to some of the recommendations of the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee of 1906, particularly those regarding the licensing of contractors and recruiters.

Malpractices in connection with sardari recruitment.

100. Several cases of malpractices in connection with sardari recruitment were brought to the notice of Government. It was ascertained that in some districts unlicensed recruiters were in the habit of supplying emigrants to local agents and garden sardars who produced them for registration as their own recruits. As such practices constituted a source of grave danger to the system of *bonâ fide* sardari

recruitment, the attention of Emigration Superintendents and registering officers was directed to the necessity of making proper enquiries before granting licenses to local agents, and of satisfying themselves that emigrants produced for registration have been properly recruited by garden sardars themselves, and not through undesirable and improper intermediaries.

Treatment of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

101. The adoption of the open-air treatment of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis among intending emigrants was sanctioned by Government on an experimental basis in one of the Colonial Emigration depôts under the direct supervision of the Medical Inspector of Emigrants. A new segregation hospital was opened for the purpose in the British Guiana Emigration Depôt in December 1911, and the results so far achieved are encouraging.

Prohibition of emigration to Natal.

102. A notification was issued by the Government of India under section 5 of the Indian Emigration Act XVII of 1908 (as amended by Act XIV of 1910), prohibiting emigration of natives of India to Natal, with effect from the 1st July 1911.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Central Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi.

103. The project for the construction of a central Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi to accommodate European lunatics from the whole of Northern India has been under consideration for some years past. Revised plans and estimates were drawn up during the year, but owing to the announcement of territorial changes action had to be deferred, and the question has since been taken up by the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

The existing asylums for Indian patients have also proved insufficient, and the necessity for larger accommodation is very pressing. Revised plans and estimates were also prepared, providing for 1,060 inmates. It has recently been decided that a large central asylum should be built to meet the requirements of both Bengal and Bihar and Orissa The matter is under the consideration of the Government of the latter province.

SANITATION.

Improvement of the Sanitary Services.

104. The question of improving the Sanitary Services has engaged the attention of Government since 1907. The necessity for an efficient sanitary executive has been specially recognized in municipalities, and a scheme has now been formulated, which will provide a service consisting of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors for dealing efficiently with the sanitation of large towns. The details of the scheme had not been worked out by the close of the year, but sanction has since been received to the immediate appointment of two more Deputy Sanitary Commissioners for the province who will not necessarily belong to the Indian Medical Service.

Creation of a special Drainage Division of the Public Works Department.

105. In accordance with the recommendation of the Drainage Committee appointed in 1906 to consider the drainage conditions of the Presidency Division in Bengal, it is proposed to entrust the collection of accurate information regarding the drainage conditions of particular

tracts to a special Engineering Division. On the information so ascertained will be based schemes for the improvement of those tracts. The proposed special division will consist of an Executive Engineer, an Assistant Engineer and a subordinate staff including two supervisors and 12 sub-overseers. Sanction to the creation of the special Engineering Division at a cost of Rs. 4,269 a month for a period of two years in the first instance has been received, and steps have been taken for the formation of the department with head-quarters at Calcutta.

Scheme for the drainage of the Nawi and Sunthi rivers.

106. In order to improve the drainage of certain tracts in the Barasat subdivision of the district of the 24-Parganas, the unhealthiness of which is alleged to be due to obstructions in the drainage channels of the Nawi and Sunthi rivers, a scheme under the Sanitary Drainage Act, 1895, was drawn up at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,63,745, towards which Government contributed two lakhs. The tract of country to be benefited by the scheme covers an area of 70 square miles.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

Teaching of rudiments of postal information in vernacular schools.

107. With a view to diffuse a knowledge of the rudiments of postal information among the boys of vernacular schools, a small pamphlet of instructions on postal matters was drawn up in the various vernaculars and distributed throughout the province to every teacher of primary classes.

Revised syllabuses for the Overseer and Sub-Overseer courses.

108. Revised syllabuses for the Overseer and Sub-Overseer courses of the Joint Technical Examination Board were issued providing for a further course of practical training and emphasizing the importance of Mechanics and Electrical Engineering.

Instruction as regards malaria.

109. Three itinerant Civil Assistant Surgeons were appointed to deliver lectures between the months of July and December in the Government High schools and first grade Training schools on the value of sanitation with special reference to the prevention and cure of malaria. Provision was made for the treatment of the subject of hygiene and sanitation in the Teachers' Manuals and in the revised syllabuses of studies in primary and middle schools.

Drawing-books in schools.

110. A Committee was appointed as an experimental measure for three years to advise on the selection of drawing books for use in schools and on other matters touching on Art.

Mining classes in coal-fields.

111. It was decided to continue for a period of three years the scheme of instruction in practical mining at selected centres in the colliery districts, which was sanctioned in November 1910 for an experimental period of six months.

Delegation of powers.

112. In accordance with the principles enunciated in the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Decentralization, sanction was given

to the delegation of powers in respect of certain subjects from Government to the Director of Public Instruction and from the Director to Inspectors of Schools and Principals of Colleges.

Friendly gatherings of teachers and parents.

113. With a view to interest parents and guardians in school life, it was resolved that, as an experimental measure, friendly gatherings of teachers of schools and parents and guardians of boys should be held at each of the Government High schools in Eastern Bengal during the cold weather, and grants were sanctioned for the purpose.

Visit of educational officers to other provinces.

114. Accepting a suggestion made by the Government of India that Professors of Colleges and Inspectors of Schools might with advantage make occasional short visits to other provinces in order to enlarge their experience, the Government of Eastern Bengal passed orders with a view to giving effect to the proposal.

Nature study in primary schools in Eastern Bengal.

115. In pursuance of a scheme for the improvement of the teaching of nature study lessons in primary schools in Eastern Bengal, the proposal to attach a special class under a Superintendent to the Dacca Training College for the training of primary teachers in "nature study" received the approval of the Government of India.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature.

116. On the whole, the year was poor in the quality of its literature. In point of quantity also the increase in the outturn of vernacular literature which had prevailed during the three previous years somewhat abated. Many original and readable biographies were published, showing that public interest in this branch of literature is growing. There were few really good works of fiction. It is noticeable, however, that Bengali fiction is becoming less sentimental. Books of travel are becoming increasingly popular. As usual the amount of religious literature published was not only the largest, but the most varied in character.

Press.

117. The tone of the Indian Press showed further improvement and a spirit of moderation in the discussion of public questions was manifest in the writings of the leading vernacular papers. The result was probably in some measure due to the suppression of the *Daily Kitabadi* under the operation of the Press Act in the early part of the year. The Press Act was worked with considerable restraint and, moderation. A noticeable tendency is the growth of the Muhammadan Press. The circulation of the *Muhammadi* doubled, and a new paper called the *Moslem Hitaishi* was started with a circulation of over 5,000 copies. An English weekly, called the *Comrade*, was also started purely in Muhammadan interests. There was an increase in the cleavage between the Indian papers in Calcutta and the English papers. Finally it would appear that the Press in Bengal is becoming more democratic: it is losing respect for aristocratic lineage and the holders of landed property. The forces of conservatism, so far as they are reflected in the Press, are losing ground.

Subsidized newspapers.

118. The *Biswabarta* was not conducted with marked ability, and no important results were produced by it. The *Sulabh Samachar* was well received by the public for whom it was intended, and its effect was salutary. It reached, by means of a carefully devised scheme of

circulation, a large public which did not read any papers before, and there is a danger that that public will take to less reputable papers now that the distribution of these papers by Government has ceased.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Cattle survey.

119. In connection with the scheme for a cattle survey throughout India by the officers of the Civil Veterinary Department, a general inquiry into the conditions of cattle-breeding in Bengal from an economic and non-technical point of view was, at the suggestion of the Government of India, undertaken during the year. A set of questions, framed on the lines of a similar inquiry made in the Punjab, was issued to District Officers, and the replies received will be embodied in a monograph to be prepared by the officer entrusted with the work, after he has visited the principal breeding grounds and fairs. The information thus compiled is intended to supply a useful compendium of information as a basis for the complete cattle census which the Veterinary Department hope to undertake subsequently. Mr. Blackwood, I.C.S., was in November 1911 placed on special duty to carry out the general survey of cattle in the Eastern Bengal districts.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Delhi Durbar and Coronation celebrations.

120. The Imperial Durbar held at Delhi on the 12th December 1911 to celebrate the Coronation of Their Imperial Majesties King George V, Emperor of India, and Queen Mary was attended by the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a large number of guests invited by them as representative of the official and non-official communities in their respective provinces. The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm all over Bengal. Local durbars were held at the head-quarters of every district and subdivision, at which the Royal Proclamation was read both in English and the vernacular and certificates of honour were distributed. In every village of every district the Proclamation was read and a portrait of His Imperial Majesty exhibited. Prayers were offered up by all sects for the long life and happy reign of Their Majesties. Numbers of prisoners were released or granted a partial remission of sentence. School children were treated and medallions distributed to them. The poor were clothed and fed and the inmates of hospitals entertained. Public and private buildings were decorated in a befitting manner and brilliantly illuminated at night. The day was regarded as one of general rejoicing by all members of the community and will long be remembered. The occasion was also duly celebrated in the States of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera.

Visit of Their Imperial Majesties to Calcutta.

121. The most important event of the year in Calcutta was the visit of Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress. The welcome which they received was unprecedented in its warmth, and the gracious and encouraging words of His Majesty's speech at Prinsep's Ghât in reply to the address of the Corporation will ever be remembered by the citizens of Calcutta. Enormous crowds swarmed into the city to take part in the celebrations, the most striking of which were the Pageant on the Calcutta Maidan on the 5th January and the general illumination of the city on the following evening. Their Majesties stayed in Calcutta from the 30th December 1911 to the 8th January 1912, and the farewell speech which His Imperial Majesty delivered at Prinsep's Ghât expressed the pride and gratification which he and the Queen-Empress felt in the loyal and enthusiastic welcome which they had received.

Procedure for presentation of appeals.

122. In accordance with the recommendations made in paragraph 684 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization, rules were framed by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to regulate the presentation of appeals and petitions to the Local Government and other authorities by Government servants. These rules are at present applicable only to the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

Curtailment of Reports and returns.

123. The Government of India made suggestions for the curtailment of a number of the annual reports received from Local Governments and Administrations in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture. Effect has been given to these suggestions by reducing the length of the reports as far as possible, by eliminating unimportant details, and by omitting matter which is of no interest to the public. Orders were also issued to the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, for the curtailment of his Annual Agriculture Report.

Quarters for Deputy Magistrates.

124. It was decided that Government should undertake to build residences for Deputy Magistrates in places where the provision of accommodation was absolutely necessary. Fifteen buildings were to be erected according to two type-plans; one a double-storied building costing Rs. 10,000, and the other a single-storied one costing Rs. 8,300. The programme provided that these buildings should be completed within five years from 1912-13, and that Bengal and Bihar districts should receive equal treatment.

The reconstitution of the provinces has necessitated changes in the programme and in the number of buildings to be constructed, which are now under the consideration of Government.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911-1912.

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MAP.

Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1911-1912.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples.

Area and boundaries.

THE Presidency of Bengal as constituted on 1st April 1912 comprises the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and the district of Darjeeling formerly administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions formerly administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Approximately it lies between the twenty-second and twenty-seventh parallels of north latitude, and its limits west and east lie irregularly between the eighty-seventh and ninety-third degrees of east longitude. It is bounded on the north by Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan, on the east by Assam and Lower Burma, on the south by the Bay of Bengal and on the west by Bihar and Orissa. Including the two Native States of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera which are under the general supervision of, and in political dependence on the Government of Bengal, and including the French Territory of Chandernagore, the area of the Presidency is 83,809 square miles. The area of the British territory is 78,412 square miles.

Bengal comprises the lower valleys and deltas of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, and, with the exception of the Himalayan montane and submontane tracts in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri in the north, the hills in Hill Tippera and Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the extreme south-east consists largely of a vast fertile alluvial plain intersected in its southern portion by an infinity of rivers, creeks and channels. On the west the Chota Nagpur Plateau is continued by an undulating lateritic tract running through the western portions of Midnapore, Bankura, Burdwan and Birbhum. This tract was formerly known as the jungle mahals and was largely covered with *sâl* forest. It has now, however, for the most part been brought under cultivation. Another elevated quasi-laterite tract known as the Barind runs from the Rajmahal Hills across Malda, Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Bogra. A similar tract known as the Madhupur jungle is found in Dacca and Mymensingh. But the general level of the country is very low. A vast plain extends southward from the sub-montane tracts of Jalpaiguri in an almost unbroken expanse of monotonous fertility until it meets the forests, creeks and swamps, which under the name of the Sundarbans form a belt of jungle between the cultivated area and the Bay of Bengal.

The length of railways completed and open for traffic on 31st March 1912 within the province was 2,377·33 miles, as shown in the following list, excluding 199·01 miles of light railways :—

Railways.	Miles.	Light Railways.	Miles.
Assam-Bengal ...	217·36	Darjeeling-Himalayan	51·00
Bengal-Duars ...	152·96	Tarakeswar-Magra ...	33·27
Bengal-Nagpur ...	333·19	Howrah-Amta ...	43·87
Calcutta Port Commissioners' ...	15·34	Howrah-Sheakhala ...	19·75
Cooch Behar ...	33·09(*a*)	Barasat-Basirhat ...	51·12
Eastern Bengal State	1,231·39	Total ...	199·01
East Indian ...	371·79		
Tarakeswar ...	22·21(*b*)		
Total ...	2,377·33		

(*a*) Worked by the Eastern Bengal State Railway.
(*b*) Worked by the East Indian Railway.

A list of the canals in the Presidency is given below. The linear miles which are navigable are specified. The rivers comprised in the Nadia Rivers system are also included in the list of navigable channels. Their total length is 509½ miles :—

	Miles.
Midnapore Canal.	
Main and branch canals (irrigation)	69·75
Of which navigable	69·75
Distributary channels	254·54
Hijili Tidal Canal.	
Main and branch canals for navigation	29
Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	
Artificial canals and river channels for navigation ...	1,115
Madaripur Bil Route.	
Main and branch canals for navigation	21

There are also (1) the Eden Canal, (2) the Gaighatta and Baxi Khal and (3) the channels comprised in the Magra Hât drainage scheme. The Eden Canal is for irrigation only, and its length including that of distributaries is 45⅙ miles. The Gaighatta and Baxi Khal is for navigation only, and its length is 7½ miles. The total length of the channels comprised in the Magra Hât drainage scheme and declared under the Bengal Canals Act is 99½ miles. It is under contemplation to bring more channels under the Act, and when this is done tolls will be levied.

2. The Ganges enters Bengal after rounding the Rajmahal Hills. Its main stream flows nearly south until the Bhagirathi breaks away on the west to form the Hooghly, while the main stream continues south-east to Goalundo, where it meets the Jamuna, the principal branch of the Brahmaputra. About 220 miles from its mouth the Ganges spreads out into numerous branches, forming a wide delta. This delta, where it borders on the sea, becomes a labyrinth of creeks and rivers, running through the dense forests of the Sundarbans and exhibiting during the annual inundation the appearance of an immense sea. Higher up, the rice-fields, extending to thousands of square miles, are submerged during the rains. The scene at that time presents a panorama of singular novelty and interest : the crops covered with water to a great depth ; the ears of grain floating on the surface ; the stupendous embankments which restrain, without altogether preventing, the excesses of the inundations ; and peasants in all directions going out to their daily work with their cattle on boats or rafts. The navigable streams which fall into the Ganges intersect the country on all sides and afford abundant facilities for internal communication. In many parts boats can approach by means of lakes, rivulets and water-courses to the door of almost every cottage. The lower region of the Ganges is the richest and most productive portion of Bengal, and abounds in valuable produce. Another large river by which Bengal is intersected is the Brahmaputra, which is formed by the union of several great streams. It flows towards the south-west through the length of the Assam valley, after which it clings to the contour of the Garo Hills, and then proceeds due southwards to its junction with the Ganges near Goalundo. These two rivers flow in diverging courses until they are more than 1,200 miles asunder ; and again approaching each other intermix their waters before they reach the ocean. The Chittagong rivers, including the Fenny which separates Chittagong from Tippera, fall into the east

of the Bay of Bengal. The largest of them, the Karnaphuli, on which Chittagong is situated, rises in the north-east of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and reaches the Bay after a tortuous westerly and south-westerly course. Its principal tributary is the Halda. The Sangu also follows a very circuitous course, and finally enters the Bay, ten miles south of the Karnaphuli. On the western side of the Gangetic delta the rivers have little or no connection with the main water system of the country. The Damodar, the Rupnarayan and the Kasai may all be said to join the Hooghly between Calcutta and Sagar Island; but they are isolated rivers which take their rise in the plateau of Chota Nagpur, do not help to form the delta, and are entirely independent in character. The Hooghly is the most westerly, and for commercial purposes the most important, channel by which the Ganges enters the Bay of Bengal. It takes its distinctive name near the town of Santipur, a little above the point where the waters of the Bhagirathi join those of the Mathabhanga, at a distance of about 120 miles from the sea. The united stream thus formed is known as the Hooghly during the rest of its course, and represents three western deltaic distributaries of the Ganges, viz. (1) the Bhagirathi, (2) the Jelinghi and (3) part of the Mathabhanga, which branches off in the Nadia district. Proceeding south from Santipur, with a twist to the east, the Hooghly river divides Nadia from the Hooghly district until it touches the district of the 24-Parganas. It then flows almost due south to Calcutta, next turns to the south-west and finally to the south before entering the Bay.

The Tista rises on the farther side of the Himalayas, and bursts through the mountain barrier before it reaches British territory. At the point where it debouches on the plains it carries a considerable volume of water and becomes at once navigable for large boats. Its tributaries include the Rang-chu and Roli on the left bank; and on the right, the Great Rangit, Rangjo, Rayeng and Sivak. The Mahananda, which passes through the Darjeeling district, loses itself in the sand of the *Tarai* for a portion of its course, but falls into the Ganges as a considerable affluent after passing through Purnea and Malda.

Mountain.

3. The mountains and hills belong to that small part of the Himalayan chain, which lies within, and borders on, the jurisdiction of the Governor of Bengal. They vary greatly in height, from Darjeeling, 7,163 feet above sea-level, on the south, to Kinchinjunga in Sikkim, 28,146 feet high, on the north-west.

The Sinchula range in the Jalpaiguri district forms the boundary between British territory and Bhutan. Its average elevation is from 4,000 to a little over 6,000 feet, the highest peak being 6,222 feet above sea-level.

The principal hill ranges in the Chittagong district are—(1) the Sitakund, (2) the Goliasi, (3) the Satkania, (4) the Maskhal and (5) the Teknaf. Of these the most interesting is the first named, which contains the sacred peak of Chandranath or Sitakund, 1,155 feet in height, the highest hill in the district.

Hill Tippera and the Chittagong Hill Tracts are mountainous regions to the east of Bengal. The highest peak in Hill Tippera is 3,200 feet above sea-level. Dense forests cover the whole of the hilly tracts of the State. The forests give shelter to numbers of wild elephants; among other large game, the bison, rhinoceros, tiger, leopard and bear are found, and deer of several kinds are common. The population of this State, according to the census of 1911, numbered 229,613. The highest hills in the Chittagong Hill Tracts are Keokrodong (4,034 feet) and Pyramid Hill (3,017 feet). The great majority of the inhabitants are either Chakmas or Maghs, both of which races profess the Buddhist religion. Valuable forest trees are found throughout almost the entire area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. According to the census of 1911 the population of the Hill Tracts was 153,830.

Lakes and islands.

4. In the extreme south of the Presidency an interlacing network of estuaries, rivers and water-courses encloses a vast number of islands of various shapes and sizes which are themselves often half swamps. The largest of these are Sagar Island in the estuary of the Hooghly, Dakhinshabazpur, Sandip and Hatiya at the mouth of the Meghna and Kutubdia off the Chittagong coast.

The only important lake in the Presidency is the Salt Water Lake which lies in the district of the 24-Parganas, some five miles east of Calcutta, and covers an area of some 30 square miles. There are, however, innumerable *bils* or *jhils* or shallow sheets of water which expand or contract according to the season. Among these may be mentioned the Chalan *bil* in Rajshahi.

5. The Presidency of Bengal is occupied almost entirely by the Ganges and Brahmaputra alluviums which comprise soils of two very distinct types, commonly designated (*a*) old alluvium and (*b*) newer alluvium. The old alluvium consists of a more or less coarse red laterite soil overlying a stiffer red clay. Commencing in the Rajmahal district of Bihar it follows a course through the districts of Malda, Dinajpur and Bogra, and is found also in the Jalpaiguri district and in parts of the Rangpur district. On either side of and close to the Brahmaputra this type is not found on the surface, being covered by coatings of more recent deposits from flood water. It crops up, however, on the eastern bank of the Brahmaputra in the extensive tract known as the Madhupur Jungle in the Dacca and Mymensingh districts. Tracts of this type of soil also occur in the Chittagong and Tippera districts, while the whole of the Burdwan Division consists of this old alluvium. The soils of the rest of the Presidency consist of types belonging to the newer alluviums. It must not be supposed that the soils belonging to either of these broad types are uniform all over; they vary somewhat from district to district, and even within the limits of the same district.

Broadly speaking, the old alluvial soils are reddish laterite formations, some stiffer and less sandy than others. Nodules of varying sizes of hæmatite occur along with varying grades of sand and clay, the whole forming a coherent mass when moist, but passing into a stiff and caked condition on drying. Owing to the presence of hydrated oxides of iron, these soils are capable of absorbing large amounts of water, thereby becoming almost puddled during the rains. At the same time their capacity for retaining water is not large, being far below the figures reported for stiff soils in Europe. The surface layers very readily part with their water when rain ceases; the surface cracks badly and becomes more or less caked during the dry season.

The peculiar physical condition of these soils, accentuated generally by a dfieciency of organic matter, renders it in many cases almost impossible to obtain a really fine surface tilth for sowing operations. Accordingly these old alluvial soils are not cropped to any very great extent during the *rabi* season, when very little rain falls. Chemically these soils are characterised generally by a great deficiency of lime and phosphoric acid; the amount of organic matter and nitrogen present is also commonly low. This leads to such bacteriological conditions of the soil as do not favour the growth of many crops; on the other hand these conditions do not appear to operate unfavourably in the case of certain other crops, *e.g.*, low-land paddy, the physiology of whose nutrition is different from that of most field crops.

The newer alluvium comprises soils of widely different kinds, the proportion of sand-silt and clay varying considerably with the rivers which deposit them and with the point of deposition. The rivers inundate the land from April to October, and gradually raise the level of the tract by their deposits of silt. In this way the Gangetic delta has already been raised above general flood level in many parts, and in other parts the deposition of silt is still going on. Higher up a river's course the deposit consists chiefly of the coarse particles held in suspension by the water, the finer particles being naturally carried further down and deposited as the current velocity diminishes. Through a variety of natural causes, however, the deposits thus laid down may and do vary considerably, not only from year to year, but within comparatively short distances in the same year. It is sometimes hard to draw a clear line of separation between the old and new alluvium as flood water often leaves a coating more or less thick upon the surface of the former, while the great, ever-shifting rivers often carry away masses of the old deposits, substituting new ones in their place. But on the whole the newer alluvium is the area of deposition, while the older alluvium is the area of denudation. The soils of the newer alluvium are very different physically from those belonging to the older alluvium, comprising types

made up almost wholly of sand and ranging through fine loamy soils of great agricultural value to stiff clays. Very often a fine sandy loam overlies a sub-soil of almost pure sand. These soils are very often deficient in organic matter and nitrogen. Many of the coarser deposits are also deficient in lime and phosphoric acid. Owing to their superior physical condition and greater amenability to cultivation, these soils are regularly cultivated and cropped during the *rabi* season.

The following table gives some idea of the crops grown on these two broad types of soil :—

Newer alluviums.	*Old alluviums.*
Paddy and jute.	Paddy.
Sugarcane and pulses.	Jute (to a small extent).
Oilseeds, *e.g.*, linseed, mustard, niger seed and til.	Sugarcane (largely).
Cereals, *e.g.*, wheat, barley and oats.	Maize, jowar and other millets, pulses and oilseeds.
Tobacco.	Wheat and barley (to a small extent).

CLIMATE.

Temperature.

6. During the greater part of the year, owing to its peculiar geographical position, Bengal is not only exposed to moist sea winds from the Bay, but is also practically beyond the influence of the hot dry westerly winds which blow down the Gangetic plain in the hot season. The climate of Bengal is accordingly damp and relaxing, the reverse of that of North-Western India.

The annual mean temperature varies between 80° at Burdwan and Sagar Island and 75° at Jalpaiguri in the extreme north. January is the coolest month with a mean temperature of 65°, and a mean maximum temperature of about 77°. In the maritime tract the thermometer never sinks below 39°, while in the submontane parts the lowest reading yet recorded is 34°. The average afternoon temperature of the hottest months, April and May, is 90° and upwards in all parts of the province except along the foot of the hills and in the extreme south-east as represented by Chittagong. In the central and western districts which occasionally come under the influence of the hot winds blowing down the Gangetic plain, the afternoon temperature averages about 100° in April and 97° in May. The highest temperatures yet recorded are 117° at Midnapore and Bankura, and 114° at Berhampore. The establishment of the monsoon in June produces a moderate fall in the day temperature but not till the end of October does the afternoon temperature range below 86°. The nights are on the whole hottest in July, but the temperature varies very little from that month to October after which it begins to fall rapidly. The mean daily range of temperature increases with the distance from the sea ; it is twice as high in the dry season as in the rainy period from July to September. In the hill tract as represented by Darjeeling the mean temperature of the year is only 53°, which is 2° lower than that of Simla. The highest mean temperature of the year is 58½°, the lowest 47½° ; the highest yet recorded 80°, and the lowest 20°.

Humidity.

7. The high humidity of the atmosphere in Bengal, more especially in the eastern and southern districts, has become proverbial. If the term be used in reference to the quantity of vapour in the air as estimated by its elastic force or pressure, the popular belief is justified by observation, but if it be used in the more common sense of relative humidity, that is, of the percentage of vapour present in the air in proportion to the amount which could saturate it at its actual temperature, the average annual humidity of Bengal is lower than that of England. The following comparative tables give the mean vapour pressure and relative humidity of London and of the two

Bengal stations of Calcutta and Sagar Island for each month of the year and the mean of the whole year.

Mean elastic force of vapour measured in thousands of an inch.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
London	·245	·264	·280	·315	·340	·490	·534	·530	·468	·389	·310	·281	·376
Calcutta	·418	·511	·698	·854	·936	·980	·971	·972	·963	·855	·613	·439	·770
Sagar Island	·530	·626	·801	·925	·998	1·021	·996	·994	·984	·892	·684	·515	·831

Mean relative humidity (Saturation=100).

London	97	94	89	84	82	82	84	85	91	94	96	97	89
Calcutta	85	81	80	78	79	85	88	89	87	85	82	81	83
Sagar Island	90	86	83	81	81	84	87	89	88	86	86	88	86

The preceding tables show that the quantity of vapour in the air of Calcutta is more than twice as great as it is in that of London, whereas the relative humidity of the former is only equal to that of the latter during the months of May to September, which are amongst the driest months of a European climate. The data for Sagar Island present similar features.

The absolute humidity of the atmosphere is greatest on the coast, and diminishes inland as the distance from the sea increases. In the cold weather and spring months this decrease is rapid almost everywhere. During the hot weather months the proportion of vapour to dry air increases steadily and rapidly, but during the rainy season from June to September when the province is dominated by humid monsoon winds the quantity of vapour present in the interior is almost equal to that of the maritime region. The mean relative humidity is high and fairly equable at all the stations excepting Burdwan, where it averages 76 per cent. of saturation and remains between 64 and 80 from October to May. In other parts of the province it ranges between 83 and 88, and rarely falls below 75 per cent. in any single month.

Clouds. 8. Except at the hill stations and in the Sundarbans, the average proportion of cloud-covered sky varies between two-fifths and one-half of the whole sky expanse. At Darjeeling and Sagar Island, on an average, the proportion of clouded sky to clear sky is as 3 to 2. December and January are, on the whole, the brightest months of the year. but November, February and March are almost equally serene. June, July and August are the months of greatest cloudiness.

Rainfall. 9. The monsoon current while moving over the water surface of the Bay flows uniformly and probably with little ascensional motion and loss of moisture except during disturbed weather. After the coast has been crossed, the influence of the rougher land-surface leads to irregularities in the air-motion, especially at the lower levels. These irregularities give rise to eddies, which are accompanied by ascending currents and cause the increased rainfall observed near the coast. The sloping surface of the hills, on the other hand, causes more directly the same upward motion and the rapid increase of rainfall in the eastern and northern districts. The rainfall is unevenly distributed. Thus the average annual fall ranges between 50 and 75 inches in the south-west, centre and west, and between 75 and 120 in most places in the south-east, east and north. It is still heavier in and near the hills, where Buxa has 209 inches, Nagrakata 161 inches, Kurseong 159 inches and Dam Dim 154 inches. The rainfall is also higher near the coast than on the plains further inland. Thus, Sagar Island has an average of 70 inches, and Calcutta of 62 inches. The lowest rainfall in the province is that of the Bankura and Malda districts, where the annual fall averages 54 inches. Of the rainfall-reporting stations only Onda, Patkabari and Tanor have an average of less than 50 inches.

By far the greater part of the rainfall of Bengal occurs between the months of June and October. The months of November and December

are occasionally rainless, and such rain as falls is almost invariably due to the northward movement of cyclonic storms from the extreme south of the Bay. In the earlier part of the year light rain is of occasional occurrence during the passage of shallow depressions of the class known as cold weather storms. About the middle of February local sea breezes commence on the Orissa and neighbouring Bengal coasts. They increase in force and extend their influence further inland with the increasing temperature of the hot weather months. There occur occasionally during the hot weather months, and with greater frequency as the season advances, periods of atmospheric disturbance, the most important feature of which is the occurrence of local hot weather storms, usually called "nor'-westers." These thunderstorms are generally accompanied by heavy rain showers and occasionally, early in the season, by hail. The rainfall gradually increases from February to May. In the second week of June the local sea breezes are replaced by the steadier sea winds of the south-west monsoon. From June to October rain is abundant in every part of the province, and is due mainly to winds advancing from the Bay of Bengal.

In Calcutta (Alipore) the largest annual rainfall on record is that of 1871, when it amounted to 97·47 inches, and the smallest is that of 1895, when the registered total fall was only 39·38 inches. The heaviest rainfall at Calcutta in 24 hours is 14·53 inches recorded at 8 A.M. on 20th September 1900; and in two consecutive days, viz., 20th and 21st September 1900, it reached 25·36 inches. One of the most remarkable features of the rainfall of Bengal is the occasional occurrence during the rains of excessive local precipitation during periods which rarely exceed 24 hours in length. These appear to occur chiefly along the Himalayas. Thus on the 25th September 1899, 19½ inches were registered at Darjeeling, 15·18 inches at Kurseong and 13 inches at Mongpoo. Such downpours are usually associated with cyclonic storms.

Winds and Storms.

10. Broadly speaking dry land winds, chiefly from between north and west, prevail from about the middle of October to February, and damp winds, varying in direction from south-west to east, during the rest of the year. The hot damp air of Bengal lends itself with exceptional ease to the development of storms, and almost every type of disturbance is liable to occur: with each of them hail may be associated in considerable quantities. The ordinary thunderstorm that is produced in sultry weather in other countries is well represented in Bengal throughout the year except in the cold weather. The line squall of the temperate regions has much in common with the "nor'-westers" that are formed in Bengal in the hot weather, when dry north-westerly winds impinge on moist air brought by southerly winds from the Bay: characteristics of these are the strong cold winds which blow outwards in advance of them and their approach almost invariably from a north-westerly direction. Tornadoes and waterspouts, such as are experienced in the United States, occur at long intervals, but their extremely violent winds create very great havoc over the narrow path along which they travel.

Cyclones.

11. Lastly there are the cyclones and cyclonic storms which cover areas several hundred miles in diameter and are formed over the Bay of Bengal; these are all marked by the same features of vortex-like movement of the wind in the direction opposite to the hands of a watch, progressive advance from the interior of the Bay towards the coast, and very heavy rainfall over and near the area of cyclonic disturbance. They differ, however, very considerably in extent and intensity. Those which occur in the rains proper (*i.e.*, the months of June, July, August and September) are generally small in extent, the barometric depression at the centre seldom exceeds half an inch, and the air motion though it may be violent is rarely of hurricane force. The most destructive cyclones that have passed over Bengal have been generated during the transition periods, that is, during the months of April and May, October and November. These, however, are of less frequent occurrence than the storms of the rains proper. They consist of an outer storm area, an inner storm area and a central calm. In the outer region the winds are strong, with frequent squalls, and the sea is high, the barometer being not much lower than usual. In the inner storm area the barometer

falls very considerably, the winds are of hurricane force, the squalls and rainfall of excessive violence and the sea tremendous. In the calm centre the air is still and lazy though the sea is usually very much disturbed.

The wind system frequently produces a destructive storm-wave when the centre reaches a gradually shelving coast. In the Calcutta cyclone of October 1864 the storm-wave inundated the low land lying on each side of the Hooghly, and drowned 48,000 people; and winds of hurricane force did enormous damage to trees, buildings and shipping. Even this was surpassed by the storm-wave which accompanied the Backergunge cyclone of October 1876, when at least 100,000 people lost their lives during the inundation. The False Point cyclone of September 1885 was peculiar in two respects. It occurred during the monsoon months, but was of unusual severity though of very narrow area, and was accompanied by a storm-wave which destroyed the station, the water rising to a height of about 22 feet above mean sea level. The barometer fell to 27·135 inches at False Point Lighthouse—a reading unprecedented at the level of the sea. The information in the following table regarding cyclones and cyclonic storms between the years 1737 and 1910 is taken from Sir John Eliot's hand-book of Cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal and the annual summaries issued by the Meteorological Department.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total year.
Severe cyclonic storms or cyclones, 1737—1910.	...	...	1	9	25	11	6	5	12	31	33	9	142
Less severe storms, 1577—1910.	1	...	...	1	9	30	48	44	44	28	14	5	224

Of the 142 severe storms, 55 have been felt in Bengal or on its coast.

CHIEF STAPLES.

Rice.

12. Rice has been a valued food-crop in India from the earliest times, the name by which it is generally known in Bengal, viz., *dhan* or *dhan a* signifying in Sanskrit "the supporter or nourisher of mankind." At the present day it is widely cultivated throughout India, and in the Presidency of Bengal it forms the chief article of human food. The coarse early varieties of rice are mainly eaten by the poorer classes, while the richer classes eat the finer late rices. Pulses, fish, vegetables, oil, salt, spices and other condiments are added to give rice a relish. The nitrogenous nutritive element which exists in small quantities in rice is supplied to a great extent by the pulses which are consumed with it. According to the best source of information available, which cannot be said to claim any strict accuracy, the normal area cultivated with rice may be estimated roughly at 21,000,000 acres. The gross area of the Presidency being in round numbers 50,000,000 acres, and the total cultivated area being estimated at 25 million acres, it will be seen that the rice area comprises about 42 per cent. of the gross area and 84 per cent. of the actual cropped area.

There are innumerable varieties of rice familiar to cultivators under distinctive names, and possessing particular properties which make their cultivation suitable to particular localities. These varieties may all be referred to three main classes according to the land in which they are grown, the season of the year when they are reaped and the period taken in coming to maturity. These classes are (1) the *aus* or early rice crop, (2) the *aman* or winter rice crop and (3) the *boro* or spring rice crop.

Aus or early autumn rice (so called from the Sanskrit *asu* early) is grown generally on high lands which are above inundation level, but also in the eastern districts on low lands where two or three feet of water is to be found during the rains. After the harvesting of the *rabi* crop, the land is well ploughed and then the seed for the *aus* crop is sown broadcast, generally with the first showers of rain in April and May, and the crop is harvested

during the months of July, August and September. It is also sown in some parts of East Bengal as early as March. *Aus* rice requires less water than the other two main classes of rice, but at the same time is more dependent on the season and requires more attention in its cultivation. Early rice occupies the land for a comparatively short time, some varieties being ready for the sickle in 60 days, and this allows the land to be cultivated also with cold-weather crops. *Aus* rice is, as a rule, broadcasted, but it is occasionally transplanted in certain districts, especially in parts of Eastern and Central Bengal. Its outturn is generally less than that of *aman*, and its market price lower. It is very useful in supplying a food-grain and fodder at a time of the year when the stock of *aman* rice of the previous year is approaching exhaustion. The grain of *aus* rice is coarse and rather difficult to digest, and is eaten generally by the poorer classes. The area under this crop in Bengal is estimated at about 5,000,000 acres or about one-fourth of the total rice area.

Aman rice includes the largest number of varieties grown, and occupies almost three-fourths of the rice area of the Presidency, the estimated area being about 15,000,000 acres. The varieties of *aman* differ much from each other in the fineness of the grain, and in their colour and flavour. The crop is broadly divided into two principal kinds, according to the method of cultivation followed, viz.—(*a*) the *ropa*, *rūpa* or *sail dhan*, which is transplanted; and (*b*) the *chhita* or *būna dhan*, which is generally broadcasted. The finer varieties of rice, which are eaten by the well-to-do classes and also exported, are obtained from *ropa dhan*. The seed is first sown in high, well-drained seed-beds, and when the seedlings have attained a height of nine to eighteen inches, they are transplanted in bunches of five or six into low lands where rain-water has collected, and which has been carefully prepared by repeated ploughings. The first of these ploughings is, as a rule, not given till the first showers of April and May. This kind of rice does not require much water and will grow well in knee-deep water. In fact it is often transplanted into *aus dhan* lands after the *aus* crop has been reaped. It is sown generally in April or May, transplanted from June to August, and reaped in November or December and sometimes even in January.

Chhita or *būna aman* grows generally in low-lying marshy lands where the seed is broadcasted, though at times seedlings are transplanted when the land is not too low-lying for this operation. The land receives its first two or three ploughings about the end of January or the beginning of February. These ploughings are continued at intervals up to the beginning of the early rains when the seed is sown broadcast. The after-treatment of the crop is similar to that of the *aus* crop. It is harvested in December and January. Of all kinds of rice, this has the longest stem and the most rapid growth. The stems grow to a height of ten to twenty feet, keeping pace with the rising water, and are sometimes known to shoot up twelve inches in twenty-four hours. Sudden flooding proves destructive to the crop by overtopping the plants or uprooting them when the current is strong. Some species, however, are known to bear submersion for several days. In some districts certain species of *aman* and *aus* are grown together, so that, should one crop fail, the raiyat can fall back on the other. In such cultivation the land is prepared in the same way as *aus* paddy land, and sown with a mixture of *aus* and *aman* seed, the proportion being two-thirds of the former and one-third of the latter. The *aus* crop is reaped at the usual time, and the *aman* in the month of December.

The third main class of rice, *boro* or spring rice, is generally coarser and harder to digest than the other varieties. Like *aus*, it is consumed by the poorer classes. The estimated area under this rice is only about 400,000 acres. The crop is a hardy one, and is cultivated on *chars*, edges of *ihils*, *khals* or streamlets and soft marshy lands. The seed is sown in a seed-bed generally from October to January, and the seedlings transplanted from December to February in river-beds when the water is at its lowest level. The crop is harvested in about three months.

Boro is often cultivated together with a kind of rice known as *raida* or *bhashanarānga*. The seed is mixed in the proportion of one part of *raida* to

five to nine parts of *boro*, and is then sown in the nursery about the end of October. The seedlings of both kinds are then transplanted in the *bils*. The *boro* paddy is generally cut in April, when with it the tops of the *raida* paddy, which is yet but half-grown, are taken off. Although thus shorn during the harvesting of *boro*, the *raida* plants do not suffer in any way, but come to maturity in September and October when the crop is cut.

The work of harvesting is generally done by men, but in many parts of Bengal, especially among the poorer raiyats, women also assist. The transplanted *aman* and the *aus* crops are usually cut close to the ground. In the case of deep-water *aman* where the stems have been submerged and are useless for straw, the ears alone are cut off. The crop after being cut is carried home either on the heads of reapers or in carts or by *banghis* and often by boat. The threshing-floor is usually a bare portion of ground plastered smooth with cowdung, and the grain is separated from the straw by cattle treading on it, or by men beating it on a plank. The winnowing is done by means of a basket held over the head. The lighter chaff is blown away by the wind and the clean grains fall to the ground. Husking is done with a wooden lever called the *dhenki* which is worked by the women of the household. When the paddy has been threshed, some of it is sold to pay the rent, some is given to the money-lender to clear the raiyat's debt and the rest stored for household use or for sale. The grain is stored in large baskets, in stacks or in godowns. The baskets used by the poorer cultivators are of a roughly cylindrical shape, plastered on the inside with cowdung and mud to keep them air and water-tight. Wealthier villagers, who carry on a regular trade in rice, store their paddy in circular stacks called *golas*, or in houses with thatched roofs and mud walls.

In the absence of any special agency for the collection of agricultural statistics in Bengal, the average outturn of rice per acre cannot be stated with accuracy. It varies much according to season, locality and the variety of rice grown. From the best sources of information available, the average outturn of cleaned or husked rice per acre for all classes of lands has been estimated at 10 maunds for early rice and 15 maunds for late rice, but the results of crop-cutting experiments during the last fifteen years, while confirming this estimate for early rice, indicate that the average outturn per acre of late or winter rice is no more than 12 maunds. There is no large rice-milling industry in Bengal. Rice is ordinarily husked by the cultivators before sale, except that portion which is at once sold to pay the rent. After payment of the rent the members of the cultivator's family convert the paddy into rice, the employment of hired labour for this purpose being uncommon. Paddy is either sun-dried or steamed before being husked. Only about 50 per cent. of clean rice is obtained from sun-dried paddy, a large percentage being lost by breakage. This rice is called *atap* or *ālo*. The steaming process gives about 66 per cent. of clean rice known as *siddha* or *ushna*. The cold weather paddy may be purchased during December and January at cheap rates, but after that the raiyat will not sell his paddy in any large quantity, and he can only be induced to do so on being offered a price almost equal to the value of rice.

Bengal is the most important rice-producing area of Northern India, and the quantity produced is usually much more than is required for local consumption. The surplus finds its way, generally speaking, to three destinations from which the rice-trading operations of Bengal are conducted, viz., first to Calcutta, to feed the town population and also for foreign exportation; secondly, to Bihar and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, where the demand for rice is always in excess of the local supply; thirdly, to Chittagong, which is the centre of a fairly large export trade by sea. In Calcutta various commercial rices are to be found, known by distinctive trade names. The best known of these, classified according to the localities they come from, are—(1) Backergunge rices, known as *balam* and *sholoi*; (2) *deshi* rices from the districts surrounding Calcutta, viz., the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Midnapore, Howrah and Hooghly; (3) a variety grown in the 24-Parganas district is also known as *Patna* rice; (4) Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura rices, known as *rarhi*; (5) Rajshahi rices known as *uttara*; (6) coloured rices known as *kajli*; and (7) rices imported from Burma, known as *Rangoon*.

13. Wheat is not a crop of much importance in Bengal, the total normal area sown being estimated at about 1½ million acres. Its cultivation is practically confined to the western districts, chiefly Birbhum, Nadia, Murshidabad, Darjeeling, Malda, Pabna and Rajshahi. About five or six varieties are found, almost all of which are common bearded wheats belonging to the sub-species *triticum vulgare*, with red or white soft grains. A macaroni wheat with hard translucent grain also occurs chiefly in Malda. The land for wheat is prepared for sowing as soon as possible after the rains are over, and sowing takes place usually in November; but in soils which lose their moisture rapidly, or in localities where the rains stop early, sowing takes place in the middle of October. The seed rate is often as high as 100 lbs. per acre, and the average outturn is about 10½ maunds per acre. The principal kinds known to the trade and exported from Calcutta are (1) club wheat, containing a mixture of white and red grains, (2) hard red and (3) soft red. **Wheat.**

14. Barley is an important crop in Bihar, but in the province of Bengal it is unimportant, the total area sown being estimated at only 100,000 acres. Like wheat, its cultivation is almost entirely confined to the western districts, Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Burdwan, Malda, Pabna and Dacca. It is grown on uplands which have lain fallow during the rains, or on high-lying paddy lands which have borne an *aus* crop. Sowing takes place in October to November, and harvesting in March to April. The seed-rate varies considerably, but on an average is about 100 lbs. per acre, and the outturn about 9 maunds per acre. It is cultivated almost solely for home consumption, the grain being usually ground into a coarse meal and made into *chapatis*, either alone or mixed with *dâl*. **Barley.**

15. Five or six different sorts of millet are grown in Bengal, but their cultivation is confined to small areas, and none of them are of much importance. The chief are *marua* (*eleusine coracana*), *china* (*panicum miliaceum*) and *kaon* (*sataria italica*). The only districts where they are cultivated to any extent are Dinajpur, Malda, Midnapore and Darjeeling, and the total estimated area under millets is about 30,000 acres. **Millets.**

Marua is cheaper than rice, and is much eaten by the lower classes. Unlike other cereals it can wait for some time to be reaped, as the grains adhere closely to the ear and do not fall off readily. The straw is left on the ground for cattle to graze on, or may be used as fuel. The grain is generally converted into flour, which is used for making bread among the lower classes. It is also eaten boiled in water like rice, with which it is sometimes mixed before boiling.

China and *kaon* are grown both on high and low lands. *China* may be sown almost at any season. When sown after the rains, *kaon* is reaped in March and April, but it is sometimes sown in June and cut in August, September or October. These grains are boiled in water like rice, and are sometimes eaten with milk and coarse sugar. The cultivators of East Bengal generally cook *china* or *kaon* with rice, the proportion being three-fourths of the latter and one-fourth of the former. The outturn of millets is about 10 maunds per acre.

16. The total area under maize in Bengal amounts to about 100,000 acres, about half of which is in the Darjeeling district. The only other districts where it is cultivated to any extent are Malda, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore and Burdwan. In addition to the field cultivation, it is also largely cultivated in small patches round homesteads, and eaten as a vegetable in the green state. The ripe grains are prepared and eaten like barley. It is a cheaper grain than barley or wheat, but dearer than the millets. The yield is about 10 maunds per acre. **Maize.**

17. Pulses or *dâl* are a most important food staple throughout the whole of the province. The most important are *but* or *chola* (*cicer arietinum*), *mashkalai* (*phaseolus munoo*), *mung* (*phaseolus radiatus*), *matar* (*pisum arvense*), *mushuri* (*ervum lens*), *khesari* (*lathurus sativus*) and *arhar* or *rahar* (*cajanus indicus*). Of these *but* is a specially important crop in the Presidency Division, where there are ordinarily over 100,000 acres devoted to it. With the exception of *arhar*, all are sown after the cessation of the rains and reaped in the cold weather. *Mashkalai* and *mung* are also sometimes grown as *bhadoi* crops, sown in May to June and reaped in August to September. Of *arhar* **Pulses or dâl.**

there are two varieties, one harvested in April and the other in December and January. The seed is generally sown at the same time as *aus dhan*, and very often in the same fields. It is a hardy crop and will grow on almost any soil. The stalks are woody and are generally used as fuel. The *bhusa* or husks are given to cattle as fodder.

Vegetables.

18. Either in a cooked or raw state, vegetables (*tarkari*) invariably form a part of the food of the whole population. The cultivation of vegetables, especially of English vegetables, is rapidly extending, and many cultivators (*e.g.*, the Poora caste) devote themselves wholly to their cultivation and earn a livelihood by their sale. The most common and important vegetables are the egg-plant *brinjal* or *baigun* (*solanum melongena*) and *patal* or *palval* (*tricho santhes dioica*). The *brinjal* of which there are many varieties yields two crops in the year, and is cultivated in almost every garden. *Deshi kumra* and *belati kumra* (*cucurbita pepo* and *cucurbita maxima*) and *lau* (*lagenaria vulgaris*) come next in order of importance. The creepers of these gourds may be found almost everywhere in Bengal, either climbing on the thatched roofs or trailing on bamboo stages made for the purpose. Cauliflower (*phul kobi*) and cabbage (*kobi*) are common; beans (*sim* and *barbati*), tuberous roots (*ol*, *man* and *kachu*), *bhindi* or *dheras* (*hibiscus esculentus*), garlic (*roshun*), radishes (*mula*), spinach (*sag*) of various sorts and onions (*piyaj*) are universal. A small vegetable garden is an invariable adjunct to the raiyat's homestead.

Potatoes

19. The cultivation of the potato was first introduced into Bengal by the English towards the close of the eighteenth century. There was a strong prejudice against it for a long time as an article of food, especially among the orthodox Brahmans, but now it is eaten by a large proportion of the population. Two types of potatoes are grown in Bengal, the Naini Tal which is white and mealy and the Patna which is yellowish and waxy. In Bengal the chief potato-growing districts are Hooghly, Burdwan, Rangpur, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. In Hooghly and Burdwan where castor-cake is used as a manure the cultivation is carried on very carefully in old beds of rivers, which have either changed their course or have altogether dried up. Artificial irrigation is very necessary for this crop, the raiyats in Bengal generally obtaining water from canals, tanks, or *jhils*. In Khulna good crops have been obtained without irrigation. Darjeeling potatoes are remarkable for their size, and are considered far superior in quality to the potatoes grown in the plains. Large quantities are therefore raised for exportation. The export of potatoes on the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway fell from 14,488 maunds in 1884 to 4,803 maunds in 1888 and to almost nothing in 1901, owing to the ravages of the potato blight; but last year the quantity exported was no less than 54,700 maunds. The outturn varies in different parts of the province; in Hooghly and Burdwan 12 to 16-fold of the seed sown is ordinarily harvested. With careful cultivation, large seed and good manure 200—300 maunds per acre may be expected. Seed potatoes are sent from the hills to Patna, whence they are distributed over the districts of Bengal. Naini Tal potatoes in large quantities are sent to Calcutta in October to be used as seed. The potato moth has caused much damage to stored seed within the past few years.

Condiments.

20. The raiyat seasons his food with a great variety of condiments. Over 150,000 acres are estimated to be under cultivation. Chillies (*lanka*, *marich* or *jhal*), which form a most important crop, are cultivated in large quantities in the cold-weather in the Presidency, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, particularly in the Nadia district and in the south of Jessore. Amongst a community addicted to fish, turmeric (*haldi*) is extensively used in curries and in all sorts of vegetable and animal food. It is cultivated all over the province, but nowhere on a large scale. Ginger (*adrak*) is also an important crop, especially in the Rangpur district. It is eaten with animal food and also used as a medicine. Coriander (*dhaniya*), black cummin (*randhani* or *kalajira*), cummin (*jira*) and aniseed (*mouri*) are grown in small quantities for local consumption.

Pan.

21. *Pan* or betel-leaf is grown to a greater or less extent in almost every district of Bengal. It is a creeper, and is cultivated in gardens called *baraj*, generally by a special caste called *Barai* or *Barui*. The

cultivation of the plant requires constant care, but is highly remunerative. A garden lasts for five to twenty years. It has been estimated that one acre yields about 80 lakhs of leaves per annum which sell for about Rs. 2,500, and that the total cost of cultivation per acre for a period of three years is about Rs. 1,500. There are several varieties grown in Bengal, differing in size, colour and flavour of the leaves. The three most common varieties cultivated are (1) *deshi* in Central and Southern Bengal, (2) *gach* in Northern Bengal and (3) *sanchi* to a small extent all over the country. A large trade is carried on, for the habit of chewing *pan* leaf is almost universal.

Betel-nut.

22. *Supari* or betel-nut is common in Eastern Bengal, especially in Noakhali, Tippera, Backergunge and Dacca, and its cultivation is fairly profitable. In Backergunge and Noakhali the palms are planted in groves of *mandar* (*erythrina indica*), a leguminous tree. The palms fruit when from 6 to 10 years old, and may continue to bear fruit for 50 or 60 years. The nuts are gathered in November.

Fruits.

23. Among cultivated fruits are the following:—Plantain, mango, pine-apple, jack, guava, custard-apple, lichee and several varieties of melon. Many parts of Eastern Bengal and the country round about Calcutta are studded with cocoanut plantations. The mangoes of Malda and the plantains of Rampal in the Dacca district enjoy a high reputation.

Jute.

24. The cultivation of jute and the manufacture by hand of jute cloth called gunnies, and also of ropes, are very ancient practices. The export of raw jute began only so recently as the first quarter of the nineteenth century, when a few hundred maunds were forwarded to Europe. At first spinning experiments with jute in Dundee carried out on flax and hemp machinery appear to have been unsuccessful, and in the market quotations of the time "warranted free from Indian jute" became a standing condition of business (*vide* Wallace—"The Romance of Jute," Calcutta, 1909). Nevertheless the average annual export of raw jute from Calcutta in the period 1828—33 was 11,800 cwts. A few years later (about 1838) the spinning difficulties were surmounted; jute began to take its place as the cheapest material for the manufacture of sacking, and common wrappers and its export increased rapidly. The average annual export rose from 117,047 cwts. during 1838—1843 to 439,350 cwts. in 1848—1853 and 969,724 cwts. in 1858—1863. The Crimean War and the consequent temporary cessation of the exports of Russian flax hemp (the most serious competitors of jute in the gunny market) gave jute an impetus which it has never lost. Exports of raw jute began to increase enormously till they amounted to over 15,000,000 cwts. in 1901-1902, since when they have remained almost stationary, the amount exported in 1911-1912 being over 16,000,000 cwts. In the meantime the vastly increased supplies of raw jute have been almost entirely absorbed by the Indian mills, which have practically doubled their consumption of fibre within the last 10 years. The first Indian jute mill was established about the year 1855. To-day there are 45 mills in Bengal employing over 200,000 people, and consuming on an average fully half of the total quantity of jute produced.

Jute can be grown in almost any type of soil which has the necessary depth, as well as sufficient water to keep the soil moist. A swampy soil and an excessively damp atmosphere are not necessary for its successful growth. In fact the finest jute is grown on land which never goes under water. The best crops of jute cannot be raised on shallow stony land or on the acrid red laterite soils which are to be found, *e.g.*, in the Madhupur jungle tract in Bengal but outside these tracts the crop thrives well in most parts of the province and best of all perhaps in the rich alluvial areas in Eastern Bengal, which are renewed every year by the silt deposited by river floods. On lands which receive such an annual deposit of silt the cultivators are in the habit of using little or no manure, and yet with favourable weather conditions they reap large crops every year. On high lands which are never submerged it is the custom to manure for each crop of jute. Practically the only manure used at present for jute as for all other crops in Bengal is cowdung mixed with ashes and other house refuse. A common dressing of such manure is from 50—75 maunds per acre; but in some cases 100 maunds and even 150 maunds per acre are applied.

After the land has received the usual ploughings the seed is scattered broadcast at the average rate of 8—10 lbs. per acre. The time of sowing varies from the middle of February in low-lying *char* lands to the beginning of June in the western and south-western districts, where sufficient rain often does not fall before the latter date. The crop after being weeded and thinned at intervals is ready to be cut from July to October. In the meantime lowlying tracts become submerged to a greater or less depth, and it is not uncommon to see men cutting jute, standing in water up to the waist. Some jute is cut very young, in order to prevent its entire destruction by a sudden rise of the rivers. The jute which comes into the market before the middle of July is usually immature, and may be a hastily reaped crop or the produce of a late thinning operation. The great bulk of the jute crop may be said to be cut at about the time when the flowering stage is approaching completion, from the middle of July to the end of August. A longer and finer fibre is more easily obtained in this way. The cut stems are tied in bundles, and as a rule immersed at once, especially in flooded districts. In Western Bengal, however, on high land it is the custom before steeping to place the bundles on the ground in a long line overlapping each other, so as to produce fermentation and facilitate the subsequent retting process. After immersion retting may be complete in a week to ten days in the hottest part of the season, but after the beginning of September it takes much longer. On the completion of the retting process the bundles of jute are taken out of the water, when it is found that the bark which contains the fibre has become quite soft and can easily be separated from the central pith. After being stripped from the stem, the fibre only needs careful washing and drying to be ready for the market. On first-class land, in a favourable season, a return of over 30 maunds (6 bales) per acre, though exceptional, is not impossible. A 20-maund crop (4 bales) is comparatively common. On the other hand, under adverse conditions, the average yield over large tracts frequently falls to 10 or 12 maunds per acre (2—2½ bales), or even less. The results of a large number of crop-cutting experiments during the last 15 years indicate that the average outturn, taking all classes of soils into account, is 15½ maunds or 3·1 bale per acre.

There are two main varieties of the jute plant in common cultivation in Bengal—(*a*) *corchorus olitorius* (long-fruited jute) locally known under the following vernacular names :—*bangi pat; tosha; desi pat*, etc., and (*b*) *corchorus capsularis* (round-fruited jute) known variously as *deswal; bara pat; aussa*, etc. The former is more commonly cultivated in the districts surrounding Calcutta, such as Hooghly and Jessore. It is also very common to the north of Calcutta as far as Goalundo, in Rajshahi and in parts of Pabna. On lands that become deeply submerged it does not thrive so well as *capsularis*. Its cultivation, therefore, is likely to be restricted to the higher jute-growing tracts. It is a heavy yielder and produces a strong, rather coarse, fibre, which is commercially known as *desi* jute; but the value of its fibre has hitherto been consistently less than that of *capsularis*. In recent years, however, there has been a tendency towards an equalization of prices. *Capsularis* is more widely grown than *olitorius*. It is practically the only kind of jute to be found in the Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Purnea districts, and by far the most common variety in the Dacca and Tippera districts. It yields a finer, softer fibre than the *olitorius* variety, and once it has reached a height of about 5 feet, it will continue to grow unchecked even when the land becomes deeply submerged.

The prepared jute fibre may enter the market in one of several ways. In the early days of the jute trade it was common for the raiyat to bring his produce to a large centre and there sell it direct to a big dealer. Now-a-days the raiyat usually sells his jute to the *bevaris* or native dealers at the various country markets or *hâts*. Itinerant traders called *farias* also travel from village to village, buying up small quantities of jute which they take by boat, if possible, to the nearest country market. There they meet both the *bevaris*, and also in recent years the representatives of large European firms, who have found it to their advantage to form their own buying agencies at country marts instead of employing the *beparis* as formerly. The jute is then despatched to the larger centres, where it is sorted into a

number of qualities, usually designated Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and "rejections," and then baled. It is sent to Calcutta generally in the form of bales or drums by rail, river and road.

The following table shows how the jute has been imported into Calcutta by these routes during the last ten years. It would seem that almost the whole of the increased produce has been brought to Calcutta by rail :—

	By rail.	By road.	By boat.	By steamer.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1902-1903	12,252,021	1,054,234	3,330,644	5,011,962
1903-1904	13,278,208	1,303,562	3,172,645	8,487,506
1904-1905	14,328,323	1,088,871	3,425,751	3,007,574
1905-1906	15,226,743	1,475,843	5,259,661	8,547,520
1906-1907	15,070,838	1,100,877	6,950,660	4,122,655
1907-1908	16,169,365	695,814	4,858,780	4,252,101
1908-1909	20,211,100	733,313	4,267,550	3,796,983
1909-1910	16,396,595	934,148	4,404,084	5,360,611
1910-1911	14,544,658	1,245,806	4,295,729	5,019,002
1911-1912	19,660,782	1,231,890	5,665,388	6,061,565

The chief centres of the jute trade outside Calcutta are Narayanganj, Chandpur, Madaripur, Sirajganj, Kushtia and Goalundo. Of these, Narayanganj, which deals with about 20 per cent. of the total jute crop, is by far the most important. In a large centre like Narayanganj some firms reconsign the jute to Calcutta, while others bale for export also. The former commonly use a small press, producing a 3- to 4-maund bale. For export the standard 5-maund (400 lbs.) bale is universal. Of the jute which comes into Calcutta, the greater proportion ultimately finds its way to the Calcutta jute mills; but a large quantity is also rebaled, after sorting, for export. The number of jute press-houses has more than doubled in the last ten years. In 1901 there were 19 in West Bengal and 64 in East Bengal, whereas in 1910 there were 42 and 124 respectively.

The amount of jute consumed by Indian mills rose from 2,824,000 bales in 1902-1903 to 4,107,000 in 1911-12. The number of mills in Bengal in 1912 is 45 with 32,944 looms and 676,758 spindles, as compared with 34 mills with 15,366 looms and 313,740 spindles in 1901. The number of hands employed is 204,104, and the capital invested in the mills is about 15 crores of rupees or £10,000,000. The capital is almost exclusively European. The mills confine themselves to the production of the coarser classes of goods, chiefly gunny-bags, and hessian cloth.

There was a period of depression in 1908-09 due to overproduction, but in the latter part of 1910 the demand for jute goods again asserted itself, and is now so great that the crop of 1911 which was probably a record one has been almost completely consumed at high prices and the mills are now said to be in a more favourable position than they have been for years. The

following table shows the amount and value of jute (1) consumed by Indian mills and (2) exported during the last ten years:—

Year.	Indian mill consumption.		Total exports.	
	Bales of 400 lbs.	Value in rupees.	Bales of 400 lbs.	Value in rupees.
1902-1903.	2,824,000	7,09,31,428	3,632,086	11,08,28,308
1903-1904	2,975,000	7,75,87,587	3,819,397	11,65,96,315
1904-1905	3,165,000	8,45,42,865	3,555,530	11,82,69,364
1905-1906	3,312,000	10,70,16,700	3,986,290	16,86,62,600
1906-1907	3,524,000	16,20,20,794	4,409,369	26,52,60,436
1907-1908	3,763,000	15,92,89,881	3,949,150	17,88,81,248
1908-1909	3,650,000	10,12,77,361	4,979,934	19,75,85,061
1909-1910	4,587,000	12,76,33,275	4,068,498	15,02,34,583
1910-1911	4,093,000	11,49,22,344	3,561,899	15,48,24,199
1911-1912	4,107,000	.....	4,521,720	22,49,08,856

Most of the raw jute is exported to Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States. The imports of the European countries consist chiefly of the finer qualities of fibre: the exports to America are said to consist largely of "cuttings" and "rejections" destined for the manufacture of paper. The United States and the Argentine take nearly 86 per cent. of the gunny cloth exported.

The total estimated acreage under jute in 1901-1902 was 2,339,100 and the outturn 70 lakhs of bales of 400 lbs. The estimated acreage and outturn in 1910-1911 were 2,933,800 acres and 8,124,000 bales, while in 1911-1912 the estimated acreage rose to 3,106,400. In spite of this large increase in the acreage under jute in recent years there has been no corresponding expansion in the tract of jute-producing country. It would seem therefore that any further large extension of jute cultivation in the districts now growing jute must take place at the expense of food-crops, such as rice or sugarcane. There is reason to believe too that the quality of jute brought into the market has deteriorated in recent years, not because the plant has deteriorated, but because cultivators are growing more jute than they can carefully prepare with their household labour. This difficulty can be surmounted by the employment of outside labour, and there are signs that such a change is already in progress.

It must not be supposed that India has reached its limit in the matter of jute production. Experiments by the Government Fibre Expert have shewn the possibility of considerably increasing the yield of fibre in the present jute-producing tract by using only the most prolific varieties and by improving the methods of cultivation; demonstrations are now being undertaken to disseminate this information among the cultivators. Ultimately, however, jute cultivation must expand into other suitable areas, such as Assam or Bihar; but it is probable that the extended use of other fibres, such as *hibiscus cannabinus*, which is equally, if not better, suited for some of the purposes to which jute is put, and which can be produced in tracts where jute cultivation would be impossible, will also take place.

For many years jute has been subject to adulteration of various kinds; but the most extensively practised as well as the most serious in its effects is that of "watering," *i.e.*, the adding of water to the fibre in order to increase its weight. This evil reached such a pitch about the year 1905, that the jute trade made a strong demand to Government to introduce repressive legislation. The matter was seriously considered by Government, but the idea of legislation was ultimately rejected for several important reasons, one of which was that owing to the considerable capacity of jute for the absorption of water vapour from a moist atmosphere, the standard of moisture-content would have to be placed much higher than the normal moisture-content of good jute and thus render legal the addition of considerable quantities of water to the fibre. The most serious aspect of the

"watering" of jute is the effect which is said to be produced on the fibre by baling it in a moist or wet condition. The belief is universal in the jute trade, that if jute is baled when in a damp condition, it is liable to suffer a very serious deterioration known as "heart damage," in the course of which the fibre is so profoundly affected that it is rendered useless for textile purposes.

Recently the Government Fibre Expert has initiated a series of experiments with 5-maund bales with the following objects:—

(*a*) to decide whether or not "heart damage" is due to excessive watering; and, if so,

(*b*) to determine approximately the maximum amount of moisture necessary to produce the phenomena associated with "heart damage";

(*c*) to determine as far as possible whether or not the cause of "heart damage" is biological; and, if so, whether any remedial measures can be formulated.

25. *Sunn* (*crotalaria juncea*).—This is not the true hemp, though it is known in the trade and is exported under the name of *sunn* hemp. In West Bengal it is a *kharif* crop but in East Bengal, especially in the district of Pabna and Chittagong, it is grown in the cold season on lands which are to grow jute in the succeeding *kharif* season. It is considered to be a renovating crop, being rich in nitrogen, and is sometimes used as a green manure to enrich poor paddy lands. The plant yields a coarse, strong fibre, which is peculiarly durable when immersed in water. It is therefore largely used in Eastern Bengal for the manufacture of fishing nets and cordage. The Bengal varieties, however, are inferior to the Jubbulpur hemp and cannot be used for the making of high class cordage. Large quantities are imported into Calcutta, chiefly from the United Provinces. **Sunn hemp.**

26. *Dhaincha* or *dhunecha* (*sesbania aculeata*) grows in all soils but best in moist soils reaching a height of from 10 or 12 feet, yielding fibres from eight to ten feet in length but coarser than those of hemp. It is considered, however, to be more durable in water than either *pat* or *sunn*, and is much used by fishermen for drag ropes to their nets. The great value of this plant, however, is as a green manuring crop, as it supplies the soil with nitrogenous organic matter. It is a leguminous plant that grows very rapidly and is usually ready to be ploughed in within six weeks of sowing. It can resist drought and support an excess of rain. Within the last decade large quantities of seed have been used for green manuring tea and paddy. The dried stalks are used for fuel and as props in *pan* gardens. **Dhaincha.**

27. *Ganja* (*cannabis sativa*), the true hemp, is cultivated for the sake of the intoxicating drug manufactured therefrom, and for the leaves, which are smoked to produce intoxication. In the wild state the plant grows to a height of from five to six feet, a few vigorous specimens attaining a height of nine to ten feet. The cultivated variety is rather stunted, rarely rising above six feet. The narcotic property of the plant is due to a resinous substance secreted in minute glands both in the leaves and in the flowers. The seeds of the plant are used for making an oil, which is tolerably well adapted for lamps and is also employed for adulteration with mustard oil. It is also extensively employed in the manufacture of soap, paints and varnishes. In Rajshahi the seeds are baked and eaten as an article of food, but not very extensively. Hemp seed is also exported to Europe to feed cage birds. The wood is used for fuel only, and the bark thrown away. **Hemp.**

The most important products of the hemp plant are its leaves, flowers and resin, all of which are used as intoxicating drugs. The dry leaves and flowering shoots are known under the different names of *bhang*, *siddhi*, *patti* and *sabji*, and form articles of trade. Boiled with *ghi* over water the leaves part with a portion of their peculiar resin to the *ghi*, which floats on the water in the form of a green jelly. This jelly mixed with dried milk and syrup over a fire produces a paste called *majum*, which is a favourite form of the

drug. The leaves dried and powdered are also mixed with a variety of stimulating spices and made into different kinds of conserves. *Charas* is the name of the resin. *Ganja* is produced from the flowers of the female plants. Both *charas* and *ganja* are used for smoking. The intoxication from *siddhi* and *ganja* is said to last several hours, and that from *charas* only an hour or two.

At one time the district of Jessore used to be the chief seat of *ganja* cultivation. At the present time the cultivation of the hemp plant for *ganja* is confined in Bengal to a limited tract of country around Naogaon, falling within the jurisdiction of the three adjoining districts of Rajshahi, Bogra and Dinajpur. The plant is not allowed to be cultivated in Bengal outside the limits of this tract which is known as the *ganja mahal*, and, like opium, its cultivation is carried on under the strict supervision of Government. *Ganja* requires very careful cultivation. The seed is sown in a nursery in August and transplanted four or five weeks later in the field on ridges which have to be very carefully prepared, kept clean by frequent weedings and hoeings, and liberally manured with cowdung and oilcake. The difficult portion of the work is in removing all the male plants from the field. This work requires special knowledge, and is performed by experts called *poddars*. The harvest takes place in February. The curing of the drug also requires special skill and care.

There are two kinds of *ganja* ordinarily known to the trade, the flat and the round, the former containing more woody matter and leaves, and therefore fetching a lower price than the latter. In preparing either kind a small proportion is broken into small pieces known as *choor*. These consist of pure *ganja* and are, therefore, more powerful than either the flat or the round variety. The statement below shows in a comparative form the results of the cultivation of *ganja* in Bengal (Naogaon) during the five years ending 1910-1911 :—

Year.	Quantity of land under *ganja* cultivation.		Number of licenses granted.	Quantity of *ganja* produced.		Average produce per bigha.		
	Bgs.	c.		Mds.	s.	Mds.	s.	c.
1906-1907 ...	2,845	0	2,036	5,428	8	1	36	5
1907-1908 ...	2,902	10	2,497	8,560	0	2	37	11
1908-1909 ...	2,952	8	2,187	7,823	8	2	26	0
1909-1910 ...	2,947	8	2,684	9,453	37	3	8	2
1910-1911 ...	2,779	2	2,377	7,018	22	2	21	0

The total quantities of *ganja* exported during 1910-1911 were as follows :—

(1) From Bengal, 579 maunds, of which 343 maunds went to Nepal.
(2) From Eastern Bengal, 4,915 maunds, of which 4,605 maunds went to Bengal, 191 maunds to the United Provinces, 92 maunds to Cooch Behar and 27 maunds to Orissa.

The following statement shows the number of *ganja* shops, the quantity consumed, and the license fees and duty realized during 1910-1911 within the Presidency :—

	1910-1911.
Number of shops	2,298
	Mds.
Quantity consumed	3,963
	Rs.
License fees	14,15,510
Duty	14,68,116
Total ...	28,83,626

Oil-seeds.

28. Oil-seeds are an important crop, vegetable oil being universally used for application to the person, as well as for food and lighting purposes. The use of vegetable oils for illumination has, however, been almost wholly superseded by kerosine-oil, enormous quantities of which are now imported from America, Burma and Russia. The residual cake, left after expression of the oil, is valuable both as a fodder and a manure and there is an ever increasing use of it for these purposes. It is estimated that 2,000,000 acres are annually cropped with oil-seeds. Of this area, about 1½ million acres are devoted to rape and mustard, about 200,000 acres to linseed, and the rest to *til* (sesamum) and other minor oil-seeds, chiefly castor, and niger seed (*sarguja*).

The following table shows the exports by sea from Bengal of the chief oil-seeds during the five years ending 1910-1911 :—

Year	Linseed.	Rape.	Mustard.	Sesamum.	Castor.	Cotton.	Ground-nut.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
1906-1907 ...	2,538,782	145,210	891	2,293	199	27,720	1,051
1907-1908 ...	3,947,316	627,354	2,557	2,815	17,957	40,803	13
1908-1909 ...	2,179,078	526,601	1,189	40,658	4,000	21,184	2,000
1909-1910 ...	2,887,009	1,068,461	1,297	57,178	11,983	16,097	2
1910-1911 ...	4,544,986	605,666	2,277	93,374	216,044	10,725	27

Linseed.

29. Linseed is the produce of the common flax plant which is grown in India almost exclusively for the oil obtained from the seed. The normal area under linseed in this province is estimated to be 200,000 acres. The normal outturn is about 6 maunds per acre and the seed is estimated to yield about one-fourth of its weight of oil. The damper districts of Bengal proper are not well suited to its cultivation. Linseed is a cold-weather crop, and is sown and reaped at the same time as wheat or barley. It is also largely grown as a catch-crop after the *aus* rice harvest. Linseed is exported to a far greater extent than any other oil-seed. In 1910-1911 the total exports from India were 7,411,036 cwts., valued at Rs. 8,39,02,377, of which Bengal contributed 4,544,896 cwts., valued at Rs. 4,99,15,874. Of this quantity, however, Bengal grows only one-third, the remaining two-thirds being sent to Calcutta from Bihar and the United Provinces. The main consuming countries are the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Almost the entire quantity imported into Calcutta is exported to foreign countries, very little being retained for local consumption.

Rape-seed and mustard.

30. Rape-seed and mustard are the most important oil-seeds grown in Bengal. The chief centres of cultivation are the districts of Eastern and Northern Bengal, which contain extensive tracts of alluvial land cropped in the cold weather with oil-seeds and pulses. According to the latest estimates the area sown in rape and mustard in Bengal amounts to 1,500,000 acres. The normal outturn is 6 maunds per acre and the yield of oil about 12 seers to the maund. There are several varieties of rape-seed and mustard (known variously as *sarisha*, *rai*, *etc.*) all of which are sown in October and November and reaped in January and February. Of all descriptions of oil that obtained from rape-seed and mustard is the most largely consumed and most relished by the people in every part of the province. The export trade in rape-seed and mustard is less important than that in linseed; but large quantities are annually brought into Calcutta for local consumption, chiefly for pressing in the numerous oil-mills which have been opened in Calcutta. The produce of these mills is consumed largely in Calcutta, and is also exported to the interior.

Sesamum.

31. Sesamum or gingelly (*til*) is grown more or less in every district of the Presidency. There are two chief varieties. The first is a *kharif* variety, sown in July to September and gathered during November and December; the other is a summer variety, sown in January to March and reaped in June and July. The total area occupied by the crop is about

Cotton.

300,000 acres and the normal yield is about 4¼ maunds per acre while one maund yields 14 seers of oil.

32. In the plains districts of the Presidency of Bengal the cultivation of cotton scarcely exists. A small area, amounting to about 4,000 acres, is to be found in the Burdwan Division, but elsewhere in the plains cotton is not grown as a field crop. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, however, it is a crop of considerable local importance, about 30,000 acres being annually cultivated, and large quantities of the cotton are exported to Chittagong and Calcutta and thence to Europe. In the Hill Tracts the cotton is cultivated simply in jungle clearings known as *jhums*, and the variety cultivated has a staple so short and coarse that it is used almost solely for mixing with wool.

Date sugar.

33. Sugar is manufactured both from the sugarcane and the date tree. The cultivation of the date tree and the manufacture of date-sugar are extensively carried on in a compact block of country comprising the districts of Jessore, Khulna, Faridpur and the eastern parts of Nadia, and the 24-Parganas. It is a popular and profitable business for the cultivators. The date tree is cultivated to a small extent in many other districts, where its juice is chiefly used as a beverage, fermented or unfermented. The tree flourishes in moist alluvial soil above the inundation level. In the districts where it is chiefly cultivated it is grown in regular plantations, and along the borders of fields. One acre of land, if well stocked, may carry over 450 trees. The trees arrive at maturity in five to seven years, and continue to yield juice for from 20 to 30 years. The juice is extracted from the trees during the four months of the cold season. It is estimated that a tree yields on the average about 23 lbs. of *gur* or jaggery, valued at 11 annas, during the season. Some trees yield twice this amount. The juice contains 10 to 13 per cent. of sugar, the sugars being the same as occur in cane juice. The colder the weather, the larger is the yield of juice. The raiyat gets a clear profit of about 4 to 6 annas from each tree and he sometimes also enjoys the advantage of raising a *rabi* crop or a *bhadoi* rice crop on the ground occupied by the date garden. The juice is boiled in earthen pans which are never cleaned and so the process is a wasteful one. There is a large native refining industry in the date districts. The manufacture of date-sugar seems to have been declining during the last 15 years, but there are hopes of its recovery. Trustworthy estimates of the total acreage under date tree and of the total production of date-sugar are not available. The latest estimates received from District Officers go to show that about 70,000 tons of *gur*, or raw sugar, are produced in Bengal. *Gur*, or molasses, and date-sugar are largely consumed in the districts in which they are manufactured, and are also exported to Calcutta and the surrounding districts. An exhaustive chemical and agricultural survey of the industry has been recently carried out by Mr. H. E. Annett, Agricultural Chemist, and the results are being published.

Sugarcane.

34. Sugarcane, of which there are several varieties, is grown throughout the province. It is most extensively cultivated in the Rajshahi, Dacca, Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. The total area under sugarcane in the province is believed to be about 222,600 acres. Sugarcane is also largely grown in the Native State of Cooch Behar.

The cane is generally grown on high lands that are easily irrigated and not subject to inundation. In the damper districts of Eastern and Northern Bengal, the crop requires little or no irrigation. There are two or three varieties of sugarcane which grow in the submerged tracts of the Madaripur subdivision of Faridpur, where about 3 to 5 feet of water accumulates during the rains. These varieties are planted in December or January and harvested in August and September. The cost of cultivation and manufacture varies considerably in all the Divisions. In some districts sugar and *gur* are manufactured for home consumption only, while in others they are manufactured for export to other districts as well. Iron mills which have come into universal use for the extraction of cane juice have lowered the cost of manufacturing sugar. There are numerous factories in Bengal where sugar is refined according to native methods. The towns of Kotchandpur and Kesabpur in Jessore, Gobardanga and Sukchar in the 24-Parganas, and Santipur in Nadia, still contain a large number of refineries and carry on a

large trade in both date and cane sugar, though the trade has suffered greatly in recent years owing to competition with imported sugar. There are several kinds of native refined sugar. An essential feature of the native method of refining is the use of some species of aquatic weed. The raw jaggery or concrete sugar is placed in earthen vats having a hole at the bottom or in baskets ; over it is spread a thick layer of weed, the water contained in which filters through the mass and carries with it the molasses, leaving the crystallizable portion as a more or less pure granular sugar.

The sugar trade of Calcutta has undergone a serious revolution in the course of the last thirty-five years. Not many years ago Bengal used to export sugar largely to European countries ; but the export trade has been nearly destroyed by the invasion of the Home markets by Java sugar. On the other hand a large trade has sprung up in the importation of sugar, especially from Java, which sends 95 per cent. of the sugar imported into Bengal. These facts will appear from the statistics of the sugar trade of Calcutta given below :—

Year.	Imports into Calcutta by sea.		Exports from Calcutta by sea.	
	Refined sugar.	Unrefined sugar	Refined sugar.	Unrefined sugar.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1881-1882 ...	66,430	1	101,987	116,193
1891-1892 ...	620,570	190,445	56,077	30,834
1901-1902 ...	2,275,473	714,429	41,637	24,367
1902-1903 ...	2,064,658	610,940	1,899	413
1903-1904 ...	2,570,062	351,894	482	293
1904-1905 ...	2,885,085	455,581	1,649	647
1905-1906 ...	3,008,571	1,041,412	1,386	364
1906-1907 ...	4,525,360	2,119,182	6,568	75
1907-1908 ...	4,893,624	2,116,025	2,274	752
1908-1909 ...	5,109,990	2,612,725	2,241	5
1909-1910 ...	6,323,786	1,883,458	340	12
1910-1911 ...	7,254,077	3,131,610	73,859	15
1911-1912 ...	5,943,178	2,623,302	1,308,664	50

The increasing imports of foreign sugar into Bengal and the destruction of its once large export trade in this article have sensibly told on the native refining industry. The cultivation of sugarcane and date trees is still carried on, however, on a large scale. The sugar exported in increased quantities during the last two years was simply imported sugar re-exported.

35. Tobacco is grown more or less extensively for local consumption in every district in Bengal ; and in Rangpur, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore it is also largely grown for trade and export. The cultivator ordinarily takes up a small plot of land near his cow-house for the convenience of manuring the land, as he always, if possible, manures his tobacco crop. Tobacco is reared in a nursery in August, September and October, transplanted a month later, and the leaves are ready for gathering from January to March. The total area under tobacco cultivation in Bengal is estimated at 306,300 acres. Tobacco.

The districts of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri and the Native State of Cooch Behar contain the largest and most productive areas under tobacco cultivation. Rangpur grew 117,900 and Jalpaiguri 118,224 acres in 1910. Several varieties of the plant are grown in these districts, but they usually go under the name of *kochar* tobacco. The produce is distributed all over Eastern Bengal, and a fairly large quantity is exported to British Burma and elsewhere. The climate and soil of the *Tarai* districts are remarkably suited for the cultivation of tobacco, but the curing processes require improvement. As evidence of the excellence of the tobacco grown in Rangpur, the following

figures for Sumatra tobacco grown in the Rangpur Government firm in 1910 are worthy of note :—

Area.	Grade.	Quantity.	Value.
Acre.		lbs.	Rs. A.
1·1	A	862	1,077 8
	B	286	286 0
	C	256	192 0

This tobacco was purchased by a Madras firm of cigar manufacturers. The produce of Cooch Behar especially is highly esteemed. The quality of the tobacco grown in North Bengal is much liked by Indians, and tobacco has been a staple of those parts for at least a century past. The trade is chiefly in the hands of Maghs, who come annually to the district and export the tobacco to Calcutta, and to Narayanganj and Chittagong for export to Burma. The produce varies from six to twelve maunds an acre, while the price varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 7 per maund. The Burmese Maghs, who import tobacco into their own country for the purpose of making cheroots, select the very broad and thick-leaved plant, neither too mild nor too strong, and pay as much as Rs. 7 a maund for it. The cigars made from this tobacco are mostly smoked by the Burmese themselves while those which sell as Burma cigars in the market are chiefly made from Madras tobacco.

In the districts of the 24-Parganas, Jessore and Nadia tobacco is generally grown merely for domestic use, but in a tract of country, including the northern part of the Barasat subdivision of the 24-Parganas, the southern portions of Ranaghat in Nadia and of Bangaon in Jessore, the cultivation is of more importance, and the crop is exported chiefly to Calcutta. The quality and price vary considerably. The best tobacco is called *Hingli* tobacco, from Hingli, a village on the Jamuna river, three or four miles west of the Gaighata thana in Jessore. This variety is grown generally over this area, and is worth from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per maund. Some special qualities of Hingli leaf are said to fetch as much as Rs. 20 per maund.

The imports and exports of tobacco into Bengal during the last ten years are given below :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Mds.	Mds.
1901-1902	756,808	1,479,970
1902-1903	25,036	32,383
1903-1904	26,670	10,627
1904-1905	28,942	36,638
1905-1906	32,784	37,043
1906-1907	29,436	40,599
1907-1908	31,343	52,669
1908-1909	27,584	14,030
1909-1910	46,327	18,251
1910-1911	9,344	60,592
1911-1912	8,130	87,767

The imposition of enhanced duties on imported tobacco in 1910 checked imports considerably. The local manufacture of cheap cigarettes is developing rapidly, and local factories find it impossible to keep pace with the demand. Of the total exports from Calcutta, Burma takes over 70 per cent. The export trade with European countries is small but increasing.

Tea. 36. The districts of this Presidency in which tea is cultivated are the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts of the Rajshahi Division, and the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts districts of the Chittagong Division. The number of tea gardens and the area planted with tea are steadily on the increase. At the close of 1901 there were 427 gardens in Bengal, with a total area of 132,536 acres under tea. By 1911 the number of tea gardens in the province had fallen to 372, but the area planted with tea had risen to 137,831 acres. The total outturn of the year amounted to 64,456,861 lbs. of black tea and 197,062 lbs. of green tea, as compared with 46,203,980 lbs. of tea in 1901. The average yield improved from 367·5 lbs. per acre in 1901 to 461·8 lbs. in 1911. It will be observed from the table below that the yield of

the gardens in the Jalpaiguri district was returned last year as averaging 7 maunds per acre, in the Chittagong district 4·6 maunds and in Darjeeling 3·4 maunds :—

The following statement gives some important particulars of the tea industry in Bengal for the year 1911 :—

District.	Number of gardens.	Acreage.			Outturn in lbs. of manufactured tea.		Yield in lbs per acre.
		Area not yet planted.	Area plucked during the year.	Area not plucked during the year.	Black.	Green.	
Jalpaiguri ...	191	155,204	83,421	7,438	48,624,550	196,087	585
Chittagong ...	24	20,454	4,128	202	1,567,600	175	380
Chittagong Hill Tracts.	1	234	77	2	14,096	800	193
Darjeeling ...	156	70,993	50,205	1,283	14,250,615	...	284
Total ...	372	246,885	137,831	8,925	64,456,861	197,062	

The greater portion of tea is manufactured in the black form. Statistics of black and green tea were shown separately for the first time in the report for 1903, the year in which the green tea bonus was introduced ; the bonus was continued until 1908, when it was withdrawn. The amount of green tea produced varies considerably from year to year ; in the Darjeeling district it rose from 894 lbs. in 1905 to 681,317 lbs. in 1908 and fell to *nil* in 1911 ; in the Jalpaiguri district it rose from 24,400 lbs. in 1904 to 611,559 lbs. in 1905 and declined to 196,087 in 1911. The use of machinery in the preparation of the leaf is now universal. Local labour is employed everywhere, except in the *Tarai* gardens of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, for which labour is imported from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas.

The following statement shows the trade of Bengal in Indian tea during the past three years :—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1909-1910.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	1909-1910.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
By rail and river...	188,330,480	193,078,080	.....*	13,368,640	18,247,200	.....
,, sea ...	911,429	884,630	1,125,384	235,028,059	238,566,074	245,416,580
Total ...	189,241,909	193,962,710	.....	248,396,699	256,813,274	.....

* Not yet available.

The foreign exports by sea expanded from 175,713,833 lbs., valued at Rs. 7,82,98,703, in 1901-1902, to 240,975,980 lbs., valued at Rs. 11,63,07,740, in 1911-1912, which is the highest figure yet recorded. The largest imports are from Assam, Cachar and Sylhet. A certain amount of foreign tea, chiefly green tea, from China, is imported by sea into Bengal. Last year this amounted to 46,575 lbs., valued at Rs. 23,298. The chief exports by sea are to the United Kingdom, which last year took 7 per cent. more in quantity and 10 per cent. more in value compared with the previous year. Russia is the next largest buyer.

Silk.

37. The silk production of Bengal, though in a declining state, is still very considerable. The total production of raw silk in the province is estimated to be about 2,400,000 lbs., of which about (1) 800,000 lbs. are exported by European merchants to foreign countries ; (2) 500,000 lbs. are utilised in the province almost entirely by village weavers for manufacturing piece-goods

of various kinds; (3) 100,000 lbs. are transported coastwise to other provinces; and (4) 1,000,000 lbs. are exported to other provinces by road, river and rail. The total value of the production is about 2¼ crores of rupees, the bulk of the trade being in the hands of Indians. The decline in the Bengal silk trade has been chiefly in two directions, viz., in the export trade and in the manufacturing industry. In the days of the East India Company, and for many years subsequently, silk occupied the first place in the export trade, but it has been gradually superseded by jute, rice, tea, oilseeds, opium, hides and skins, wheat and raw cotton. The following table gives the export of raw silk, filature waste and cocoons to foreign countries for the last ten years :—

YEAR.	QUANTITY.				VALUE.			
	Raw.	Chasam.	Cocoons.	Total.	Raw.	Chasam.	Cocoons.	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1902-1903	597,597	709,590	45,156	1,352,343	46,33,078	5,30,157	35,701	51,98,936
1903-1904	503,842	663,764	80,633	1,251,239	40,36,499	5,94,103	77,674	47,08,276
1904-1905	408,376	427,319	62,800	898,495	31,74,131	3,96,061	62,050	36,32,242
1905-1906	486,124	605,464	39,416	1,131,004	37,30,582	4,84,695	38,750	42,54,327
1906-1907	634,982	640,843	34,025	1,309,850	50,13,224	4,69,226	34,050	55,16,500
1907-1908	512,142	664,263	71,042	1,247,447	41,33,559	4,90,558	71,042	46,95,159
1908-1909	453,128	532,350	27,400	1,012,878	34,05,528	3,66,193	27,400	37,99,121
1909-1910	319,702	762,315	44,428	1,126,445	23,01,100	4,25,289	44,600	27,70,989
1910-1911	327,947	578,645	58,281	964,873	23,12,605	3,81,863	61,509	27,55,977
1911-1912	190,425	501,899	69,510	761,834	14,04,051	3,41,065	68,528	18,13,644

The extent of decline in the silk industry of the province may be judged by comparing the above figures with the following figures of the export trade in raw silk alone during the three years ending 1867—1870 :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	Rs.
1867-1868	2,138,668	1,46,09,140
1868-1869	2,329,404	1 30,35,951
1869-1870	2,228,464	1,35,93,084

Roughly speaking about 160,150 yards (valued at 1,68,000 rupees) of *korahs* are now exported annually to foreign countries. The heavy protective tariff against manufactured silk imposed by the French Government since 1892 has affected the export in *korahs* very prejudicially. Extensive importations from Japan and China to Europe, the abundant yield in Italy and the indifierent quality of the Bengal silk have all contributed to the falling off in exports. The internal trade in Bengal raw silk has also declined very much within the last ten years. In 1877-1878 the coastwise export of raw silk from Bengal to other provinces was about 684,888 lbs., while for the last ten years it has been—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	Rs.
1902-1903	30,470	1,74,184
1903-1904	23,740	1,28,860
1904-1905	20,795	1,10,725
1905-1906	17,765	1,05,596
1906-1907	16,830	1,17,340
1907-1908	22,645	1,78,703
1908-1809	26,708	1,87,766
1909-1910	19,204	1,55,440
1910-1911	17,408	1,59,660
1911-1912	15,336	1,44,950

It is difficult to say exactly how far foreign silks have ousted the products of the native loom within the decade; but there is no doubt that the use of foreign silks has increased, and the trade is being pushed. Still the weight of silk piece-goods exported from the manufacturing centres in Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Birbhum, Burdwan, Midnapore and other places to the other provinces of India is about 300,000 lbs. per annum. The bulk of it consists of cheap *korahs* and *matkas*, which are used in the Punjab and in the Mahratta country. The introduction of the power-loom in silk weaving would, it was hoped, arrest the decline in the manufacturing industry of the

province. As yet, however, comparatively few silk-weaving factories have been started on the European method, and of those that were started some have already been closed. Of the three silk factories belonging to the Bengal Silk Company previously existing in Birbhum district, two are not now in existence. Last year two factories in Midnapore and one in Malda were closed.

The expansion of the silk trade within recent years has been only in the export of tusser, raw, mulberry silk waste, and wild cocoons; but even in these articles China is meeting the European demand with far more energy than Bengal. The factories for reeling the tusser are situated in the district of Murshidabad, while the cocoons are collected in the Santal Parganas and Chota Nagpur, where people cannot reel the cocoons. The expansion of the tusser silk trade could have been achieved much faster if the reeling were done on the spot by the Santals.

Of the various causes which have brought about the decayed condition of the Bengal silk industry, the prevalence of silkworm epidemics has been considered the most potent. Attempts were, therefore, made from 1886 to 1888 to bring out an expert from Europe who could introduce M. Pasteur's system of *grainage* in Bengal, while Mr. Nritya Gopal Mukharji was employed from December 1886 to do what he could to induce raiyats to adopt healthier methods of rearing silkworms. The negotiations to bring out an expert failed. So in April 1888 Mr. Mukharji was deputed to learn the European methods of silk-rearing in France and Italy, and on his return to Bengal he resumed charge of the silk experiments, under the control of a Committee, from September 1888 to August 1891, and subsequently under the Agricultural Department. This arrangement was continued till 1896, and during these years Mr. Mukharji was successful in rearing seed-cocoons under the Pasteur-system which were far superior to the native seed. The native rearers appreciated his seed, and his pupils in independent charge of private nurseries, originally started by him, succeeded in making the business pay. From 1896 to 1898 the work was continued on the system initiated by Mr. Mukharji under the supervision of one of the Assistant Directors of Land Records. In 1899 the operations were taken over by a Committee of silk merchants and extended to nearly all the silk districts of the province. A school of sericulture with a nursery, was opened in Rajshahi to supply the Committee with trained sericultural overseers, and also train rearers' sons in methods of seed examination. In 1908, the experimental work was taken over again by Government and placed under the supervision of a Committee called the "Bengal Silk Committee" presided over by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal. Babu A. C. Ghose, Superintendent of Sericulture, Bengal, has been carrying on the work under the direct control of the Director of Agriculture, Bengal. A school of sericulture has been opened at Berhampore with a view to spread the adoption of scientific methods of rearing silk-worms among the native rearers. The sons of *bona-fide* rearers are admitted to the school. After one year's training, they are examined and the successful candidates are helped with a reward of Rs. 250 for the purchase of a microscope and furniture and the construction of a rearing house according to the new methods.

Considerable progress has been made in the study of the diseases to which silk-worms, cocoons and mulberry bushes in Bengal are liable, in eradicating diseases among silk-worms, in distributing healthy seed over the silk districts and in thus improving the quality of the silk produced. Model nurseries have been opened at various central sites in the districts of Murshidabad, Birbhum and Rajshahi. A few villages have been selected as models, where the village rearers are given instructions by supervisors appointed for the purpose, in the use of disinfectants, such as lime, sulphur and sulphate of copper, the cost being met by the Government. The practice of disinfecting the village nurseries has proved satisfactory. In the beginning of 1912, Mr. F. D. Lafont, a French Expert, under the designation of "European Professor in Charge of Sericultural Research" was appointed to conduct experiments in hybridizing silk seed of European race with the *deshi* seeds in order to find out what kind of worms will give the best results in Bengal. The experiments are being carried out at Berhampore, but it is not possible to say how far they will prove successful.

Lac.

38. Lac (*lâh*) is a cellular resinous incrustation of a deep orange colour secreted by an insect (*tachardia lacca*) round the branches of various trees, the most common being the *kusum* (*schleichera trijuga*), *palas* (*butea frondosa*), *pipal* (*ficus religiosa*) and *bair* (*zizyphus jujuba*). The chief chemical constituent of the incrustation is resin, which forms from 60 to 70 per cent. of the shell-lac of commerce. A red dye is obtained from the small cells of the crustation, and is itself a portion of the body of the female insect. There used to be a large trade in this lac-dye, but since the discovery of aniline dyes the trade in it has practically disappeared. A few maunds are occasionally exported by sea to other parts of India, and small quantities are still prepared as a cosmetic for use by Hindu women. The entire incrustation, while still adhering to the twig, is called stick-lac. The twigs are gathered twice in the year, in May-June and in October-November. After being dried in the shade, they are sent to the manufacturers to be worked up into shell-lac or button-lac. Lac is found in Bengal in the west of the Burdwan Division, but the chief supplies are imported from Chota Nagpur and the north of Orissa. The manufacture of shell-lac is an important industry in the Bankura and Birbhum districts, and is chiefly carried on in the towns of Sonamukhi in Bankura and Elambazar in Birbhum. There is also a large factory at Cossipore in the suburbs of Calcutta. The following statement shows the export of lac of all kinds by sea from Bengal during the past five years :—

	1906-1907.		1907-1908.		1908-1909.		1909-1910.		1910-1911.	
	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.
Shell-lac	205.337	2,89,60,437	278,199	3,32,25,352	322,939	2,46,50,047	461,008	2,46,39.030	357,480	1,92,69.590
Button-lac ...	37,104	44,43,664	39,487	46,75,969	31,383	23.29,549	49,455	25,40,259	30,877	15,67,872
Total ...	242,441	3,34,04,101	317,686	3,79.01 321	354,322	2,69,79,596	510,463	2,71,79,289	388,357	2,08.37,462
Seed-lac	67	11,434	1,265	1,29,075	1,061	93,423	293	17,429	409	18,446
Stick-lac	10,262	8,86,962	11,794	4,92,816	4,117	2.05,610	5,799	1,56,327	1,087	35,746
Total ...	10,329	8,98,396	13,059	6,21,891	5,178	2,99,033	6,092	1,73,756	1,496	54,192
Other kinds ...	11,494	2,89,713	22,134	8,48,768	17,817	3,73,992	36.814	2,95,460	25,788	1,98,933
GRAND TOTAL ...	264,264	3,45.92,210	352,879	3,93,71,980	377.317	2,76,52,621	553.369	2,76,48,505	415,641	2,10,90,587

Safflower.

39. Safflower is grown mainly for home consumption. It is cultivated on account of the florets, which are used as dye-stuff, and the seeds which yield an edible oil. It used to be grown most extensively for export in the Dacca Division, but its cultivation has disappeared before the competition of aniline dyes. There is still a small export trade in the dye, 4,135 cwts., valued at Rs. 92,615, having been exported from Bengal in 1910-1911, as compared with 2,377 cwt., valued at Rs. 59,192 in 1901-1902.

Opium.

40. Provision opium, *i.e.*, opium for export, was formerly manufactured at the factories of Patna and Ghazipur from the poppy grown in Bihar and the United Provinces. The arrangements connected with the growth of the poppy and the manufacture of opium were carried on by two agencies, that of Benares with head-quarters at Ghazipur and that of Bihar with head-quarters at Patna ; both agencies were under the control of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces. Under the recent agreement with China the export of opium has been considerably reduced, and in consequence cultivation of the poppy has been curtailed, the factory at Patna closed and the agency of Bihar amalgamated with that of Benares ; the Board of Revenue, United Provinces, now controls all arrangements connected with the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium, while the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is only responsible for the sale by auction of provision opium in Calcutta.

The following statement shows the number of chests of provision opium of both agencies sold during the past two years, the amount realized, the total receipts and charges and the net revenue :—

Year.	Number of chests sold.		Amount realized.		Total receipts.	Total charges.	Net revenue.
	Benares.	Bihar.	Benares.	Bihar.			
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1909-1910 ...	21,150	21,150	3,42,37,350	3,39,54,850	6,81,92,200	1,65,90,470	5,16,01,730
1910-1911 ...	18,960	18,630	5,42,44,966	5,44,38,600	10,86,83,566*	1,86,17,327	9,00,66,239

* Exclusive of the sum of Rs. 50 on account of five chests of opium erroneously paid by a merchant but subsequently refunded.

The average price realized per chest of provision opium amounted to—

	Benares.			Bihar.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1909-1910 ...	1,618	12	7	1,605	6	10
1910-1911 ...	2,861	0	4	2,922	1	6

The exports of opium by sea during the past two years were as follows :—

Countries to which exported.	1909-1910.		1910-1911.	
	Chest.	Value.	Chest.	Value.
		Rs. Lakhs.		Rs. Lakhs.
United Kingdom	.....	.....	123	2·69
Mauritius	5	·07	.....	.....
China { Hong Kong	25,363	3,97·56	18,514	5,36·22
China { Treaty Ports	3,390	48·75	6,023	1,74·27
Straits Settlements	11,140	1,85·21	9,138	2,53·81
Java	1,360	20·70	2,125	58·02
Cochin China	1,895	29·34	1,015	31·16
Siam	.....	.....	50	1·53
Ceylon	312	4·13	110	2·91
Other countries	.....	.....	23	·79
Total ...	43,465	6,85·76	37,121	10,61·40

Saltpetre.

41. No saltpetre is manufactured in Bengal; saltpetre and crude sulphate of soda or *khari* manufactured in Bihar is sent to Calcutta for sale and export; the total quantity of saltpetre exported from Calcutta during 1911-1912 amounted to 272,754 cwts., valued at Rs. 35·54 lakhs.

In Calcutta and its environs there were two licensed saltpetre refineries in the year 1911-1912; the quantity of refined saltpetre produced was 7,329 maunds and the quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement was 806 maunds. The quantity of *sitta* (impure salt) obtained was 1,059 maunds. The quantity of salt and *sitta* excised during the year was 840 and 400 maunds, respectively. The trade in Calcutta has diminished owing to general depression.

The saltpetre refineries in Calcutta and its environs are under the control of the Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bengal.

Cinchona.

42. In 1861 Dr. Thomas Anderson, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, was deputed to Java to obtain cinchona plants for introduction into Bengal. Dr. Anderson returned towards the end of 1861 with 100 plants of *cinchona calisaya* and over 300 of other species. Some of these were given to the Cinchona Department of the Madras Government in exchange for 200 plants of *cinchona succirubra*, the red bark species. So with 100 cinchona

calisaya plants and more than that number of other species from Java, with 200 *cinchona succirubra* plants from Ootacamund, and with a few undescribed plants that had been raised from seed sent out from Kew to the Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta, the Bengal Cinchona Department was started in 1861. Owing to imperfect information regarding the requirements of cinchona trees, an incomplete acquaintance on the part of Dr. Anderson with the Darjeeling district and the scarcity of suitable land, the first three years of the experiment were unfortunate, and it was not until 1864 that a permanent plantation was started on the western side of the Rungjo valley, about 12 miles south-east of Darjeeling.

By 1871 the plantation had extended eastwards down the valley, and was composed of over two million plants mostly of red bark trees (*cinchona succirubra*), brown bark trees (*cinchona officinalis*) coming next and then yellow bark trees (*cinchona calisaya*). By 1875 there were nearly three million plants mostly of *cinchona succirubra*.

In 1875 the present factory was started and the manufacture of a non-crystalline extract from the bark of *cinchona succirubra* was begun. This extract was a yellowish powder composed of a mixture of the various alkaloids that occur in red bark and was called cinchona febrifuge. It remained until 1887 practically the sole product of the factory. The maximum amount made in any one year was over 10,000 lbs. in 1883. During the eighth and ninth decades of last century quinine was scarce and extremely expensive, costing as high as Rs. 300 per lb., while cinchona febrifuge cost from Rs. 16 to Rs. 20 per lb. The latter was therefore largely used in Government institutions and by the public instead of quinine.

From about 1874 the policy of replacing on the plantation the red bark trees (*cinchona succirubra*), that are poor in quinine although rich in the other allied alkaloids, by yellow bark trees (*cinchona ledgeriana*), that are or ought to be rich in quinine, was initiated, and continued to be pursued for many years until, towards the end of the last century, only a comparatively small number of red bark trees was left. By 1885 the original plantation, which had received the name of Mungpoo plantation from the peak standing at the junction of the Rungjo and Ryang valleys, had extended from the Rungjo into the Ryang valley, and contained about 5 million trees, more than half of which were still red bark trees.

Although so far cinchona febrifuge was the sole product of the factory, efforts were continually being made to discover a process of manufacturing quinine on a commercial scale from the plantation trees. A Quinologist was appointed, but he retired in 1879 leaving the problem still unsolved. His post was not held again by a chemist until 1905, so that for many years the Department lacked the services of a chemist qualified in quinological work. This both delayed the ultimate discovery of a process of quinine manufacture, and exercised indirectly a bad effect on the welfare of the plantation, for seed selection on the basis of bark analysis, with a view to keeping up the percentage yield of quinine from the yellow bark trees, had to give place to the untrustworthy method of relying on the external characters of the trees. By 1888 a process for the extraction of quinine and the manufacture of quinine sulphate was discovered, and from that year onwards quinine began to displace cinchona febrifuge as the chief product of the factory. In 1888 over 300 lbs. of quinine sulphate and about 7,000 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were manufactured. Ten years later the quantities were over 10,000 lbs. and about 3,500 lbs., respectively. The annual output of cinchona febrifuge has remained almost stationary since. In 1906 the factory was enlarged to permit of an annual output of 20,000 lbs. of quinine sulphate, but the annual output of late years has been nearly double that quantity.

In 1892 quinine was rendered more readily available to the poorer classes of the country by the initiation of a system of selling at post-offices 5-grain packets of the drug costing one pice each. Since 1901 this system has been further developed by increasing the quantity in each packet first to seven and ultimately to ten grains, while recently pice packets of the drug in tablet form have begun to be offered for sale. The total amount of quinine sulphate distributed annually by the Department had increased from about 250 lbs. in 1888 to 10,000 lbs. in 1902, and is now over 20,000 lbs. Within the last few

years a large reserve stock amounting to nearly 100.000 lbs. of quinine sulphate has been accumulated against emergencies.

Except during the first few years of quinine manufacture when the annual demand was small, the plantation had never been able to supply enough bark to meet the growing demands on the factory for quinine. This was due partly to the fact that the area under cultivation was insufficient, partly to the circumstance already referred to, that in the absence of a chemist it was not possible to take proper measures to improve the percentage of quinine in the bark, partly to the fact that quinine-yielding trees were planted to a considerable extent on land that had already borne a crop of cinchona and was to a certain extent exhausted, and partly to the fact that intensive cultivation was not practised. The first factor had already been appreciated to the extent that an area for extending the cultivation of cinchona had been reserved in the Engo valley, east of the Tista river. When towards the end of last century the suitability of this area for the cultivation of *cinchona ledgeriana* was examined, it was found that the area was subject to an excessive rainfall and otherwise unsuitable. The Engo valley area was therefore given up, and in its place a new plantation was started in 1899-1900 about 10 miles north-east of Kalimpong in the Dumsong Forest, east of the Tista river. This new plantation is known as Munsong plantation. While this plantation was in process of formation, the decline of Mungpoo became rapidly apparent in the unsatisfactory appearance of the later plantings, the small yield of bark and the poor percentage (2·5 per cent.) of quinine yielded. It was, therefore, decided to abandon the attempt to replant Mungpoo plantation systematically, and to allow it instead to recuperate by re-afforesting it with fuel trees to supply the factory with timber and other economical trees. This now forms the main work on Mungpoo, where the area under cinchona has dwindled down to a total of about 500 acres of indifferent plants. Within the last five years, however, over 1,200 acres have been re-afforested, with so far very promising results, and about 300 acres are being planted annually. Since 1900 Munsong plantation has increased to over 1,000 acres of cinchona trees, which from the results so far gained bid fair to yield twice as much bark and about double the percentage of quinine compared with the results of the last two decades of Mungpoo. Recently two new divisions have been opened out, so that Munsong now consists of three divisions, Munsong, Kashyem and Burmiak. There is still sufficient land within the Dumsong Forest to allow of two thousand acres more being planted with cinchona. As already mentioned, a chemist (the Government Quinologist) was appointed to the factory in 1905, and a little later an Assistant Quinologist. Rigorous seed selection based on systematic bark analysis and more intensive cultivation are now practised.

As at present constituted, the Cinchona Department of the Bengal Government is under the administration of the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, and consists of three executively independent branches :—

I.—The factory, capable of an annual output of 40,000 lbs. of quinine sulphate, under the executive charge of the Government Quinologist.

II.—Mungpoo plantation, now under process of re-afforestation with only 500 acres still under cinchona, and under the executive charge of a manager.

III.—Munsong plantation, also under the executive charge of a manager, with over 1,000 acres planted with cinchona.

The total number of cinchona trees at present on both plantations is over 2,700,000, of which over 1,500,000 are on Munsong and the remainder on Mungpoo plantation.

FORESTS.

43. The State forests in the Presidency of Bengal are located in the civil districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, 24-Parganas, Khulna, Backergunge, Noakhali, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts. They comprise 4,666 Forests.

square miles of reserved forest, 1,711 square miles of protected forest and 4,030 square miles of unclassed forest (total area 10,407 square miles) under the management of the Forest Department, while 28 square miles of reserved forest and 54 square miles of protected forest are in charge of the Cinchona Department, the Public Works Department and District Officers. The total area of State forest is therefore 10,481 square miles. In 1901-1902 the total area of State forests was 10,507 and the decrease since is due to part of the Sundarbans protected forest having been leased for cultivation.

The more valuable kinds of timber trees found in the forests of Bengal are :—in the hills, *Michelia* (Champa), *Quercus* (Oak), *Castanopsis* (Katus), *Bucklandia* (Pipli), *Juglans* (Walnut), *Cedrela* (Tun); and in the lower forests and the plains *Shorea* (Sal). In the Sundarbans forests *Heritiera* (Sundri) and *Cerio s* (Goran) are characteristic trees and in Chittagong *Lagerstrœmia* (Jarul) is found. Softer-wooded trees such as *Duabanga* (Lampate), several kinds of Laurel and the *Bombax* (Simul) are used for making tea chests and other boxes. Many other species are suitable for the manufacture of matches. Bamboos of various species are among the more useful trees of lesser growth in the Bengal forests. They are extracted on a large scale from the Chittagong forests. Where not required for domestic use by the people, bamboos may provide material for paper pulp and an agreement for the exploitation of bamboos for this purpose in the Darjeeling district has recently been made. The Bengal forests afford grazing to large numbers of cattle. Fodder and thatching grasses and "Golpatta" (leaves of *Nipa fruticans*) are the most important articles of minor forest produce. Arrangements are made from time to time for the capture, by enclosures and by noosing, of wild elephants in the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, in localities where these animals are numerous and likely to cause damage to the forests.

Working plans regulating the systematic management and exploitation of the forests have been sanctioned for 3,025 square miles of reserved forests and for 1,711 square miles of protected forests. A revised plan for 115 square miles of reserved forest in the Darjeeling district and a working plan for a further area of 26 square miles in Chittagong have been submitted for sanction. In 1901-02 sanctioned working plans were in existence for 2,537 square miles of reserved and for 1,844 square miles of protected forest. Maps on a scale of 4″=1 mile for 3,052 square miles of reserved forest and for 1,726 square miles of protected forest have been published. The work is complete except in the Jalpaiguri, Buxa, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts Divisions. In the two former only 20 square miles remain to be surveyed, but in the two latter almost the whole forest area is unsurveyed. In 1901-1902 only 491 square miles of forest had been surveyed.

The extraction of timber, firewood, and all kinds of minor forest produce is chiefly in the hands of purchasers. Sales are generally effected at outright prices by auction or by tender, but the royalty-on-outturn system of sales is still general in the more backward Divisions (Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts). Departmental extraction is confined almost entirely to the extraction of sal sleepers for the Eastern Bengal State Railway in Buxa and is undertaken mainly in the interest of the Railway. The following figures show the total outturn for the year 1911-12 compared with that in 1901-1902.

		1901-1902.	1911-1912.
Timber (cubic feet)	...	6,677,598	6,603,750
Firewood (ditto)	...	20,762,334	17,026,193
Bamboos (number)	...	17,599,261	19,223,256
Minor produce (value)	...	Rs. 1,41,249	2,22,712

The outturn from the Buxa forests has increased very largely since these forests were opened up by roads, but the outturn from the Sundarbans forests (which were being over-exploited in 1901-1902) has decreased. Part of the apparent decrease, however, is due to a change in the factor for converting boat maundage into cubic feet solid.

The forest revenue for the financial year 1911-1912 was Rs. 13,47,773 and the expenditure on works was Rs. 3,29,254 and on establishment

Rs. 3.43,162. Ten years ago the receipts were Rs. 10,71,099 and the expenditure on works was Rs. 2,09,151 and on establishment Rs. 2,32,944: at that time the revenue from the Sundarbans was more than two lakhs of rupees in excess of the revenue during 1911-1912, but it was obtained by uncontrolled over-exploitation which has since been checked. When these facts are considered, the expansion of forest revenue during the decade is fair. It is also satisfactory to note that recently the necessity of constructing forest roads, providing better accommodation for Officers and subordinates at work in the forests, and improving the growing stock has been more fully realized and a more adequate staff provided.

Elephants.

44. Among the most important products of some of the forests of Bengal are wild elephants. They are found in the forests of the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions. Their chief use is in the timber trade and for Government transport. They are also bought up by Native Chiefs and landowners as objects of display. The regular mode of catching these animals is by means of a kheddah, or gigantic stockade, into which a wild herd is driven, then starved into submission and tamed by animals already domesticated. Elephant mahals (or the right of hunting within a certain defined tract) are leased by auction sale to the highest bidder. Besides the price of the mahal, the lessee has to pay a royalty on each animal captured. In the year 1888, as considerable destruction was caused by wild elephants to the crops of cultivators in the Duars, which form part of the district of Jalpaiguri, the Government of Bengal sanctioned a proposal of the Deputy Commissioner to hunt and capture wild elephants by the method known as *mela shikar*, or "capture by noosing." This method of capturing elephants is practised in Nepal and Assam. Although the number of elephants captured by this method is small compared to that effected by the regular kheddah, the system has two advantages, namely—(1) it is less costly; (2) it is less destructive, for under the regular kheddah system a tract of country can be almost entirely cleared of elephants, whole herds being captured at one time, whereas under the noosing system only the medium and smaller sized elephants belonging to the herd are captured, the rest escaping. During the ten years ending 31st March 1912, 82 elephants (including 5 calves) were captured by the noosing system in Jalpaiguri.

CATTLE, ETC.

Cattle.

45. The cattle in Bengal are, generally speaking, light-built, small, emaciated animals, often with rough, unkempt coats and heavy pendulous bellies. The raiyats do not ordinarily attempt to improve their animals by adopting any of the well-known means, such as liberal feeding of the young stock, or selection of the best animals for breeding. Breeding is left to chance, and is chiefly done by means of Brahmini bulls. The people prefer to castrate any male cattle of their own, because bullocks are more valuable for work, and fetch higher prices than bulls. Attempts have been made under the Court of Wards and the District Boards and by some of the more important zamindars to improve the breed of cattle by the importation of up-country bulls. English bulls have been imported by private persons, but this has been done more with a view to increase milk-production than to improve the stamp of cattle generally. Even where good bulls have been introduced, the raiyat is often too apathetic to bring his cow to a distance of two or three miles. There is no special system of cattle-management in any part of the province. Grazing is nowhere plentiful, except in some limited areas. The raiyat does not set aside any land for grazing, nor does he store up a sufficient supply of fodder. Calves are generally starved, being left to live on what they can pick up during the day, and at night are often housed in crowded, insanitary sheds. Bullocks, when in work, are fed on paddy-straw, *bhusa*, *kalai*, oil-cake or cotton seed, but at other times they have very little stall-feeding. Paddy-straw and coarse grass are the chief fodder-stuffs used, *bhusa* and oil-cake being rarely given. Cattle are put to work when they are between three and four years old. They

are used for all kinds of agricultural, draught and pack work, and in places their labour is very severe. Cows, though not generally worked, are in some parts used for ploughing and light draught. The ordinary village cow yields, on an average, about 1 to 2 seers of milk a day. The best *desi* milkers are to be found in the Burdwan district in the plains and in the Darjeeling district in the hills, but nowhere is the quantity of milk given said to exceed six seers daily. The best half-bred Patna cows are said sometimes to give 14 seers of milk. Taking Bengal as a whole, the conditions under which the ordinary cattle exist are the same all over the province. The complaint is general that the cattle are degenerating. The alleged causes are want of food and sufficient pasture, careless and promiscuous breeding from inferior bulls, starvation of calves and young stock, and castration of the best young bulls. The cattle, as they now are, will tend to deteriorate steadily. The best practical method of checking this tendency seems to be to demonstrate in model farms the advantages of careful selection and feeding.

There is an extensive trade in bullocks and cows between the up-country districts bordering on Nepal and this province. Enquiries made this year showed that 9,000 cattle were sent by rail alone from Sonpur to Bengal districts. This does not include the many thousands that pass through Bihar by road from November to May. Most of these cattle are taken to the deltaic tracts where the cultivators find it cheaper to buy new cattle than to try to keep alive the old stock. In recent years there has been a large increase in the price of stock of all kinds, due chiefly to the development of trade in all directions and the provision of greater transport facilities. Many up-country cows are imported into Calcutta for their milk. When dry they and their calves are exported to the Straits Settlements for food. In the Darjeeling district two distinct breeds of cattle known as "Siri" and "Nepali" are found. The Nepali is a smaller smooth-haired breed, used extensively for ploughing purposes, while the Siri is rough-coated. In appearance the latter are very like English cattle, except for the slight hump. They are powerful, level-framed animals, and a pair can easily drag a load of 10 maunds up the steep hill roads. A cross-breed between these two is called "Sirikutcha." In the Presidency Division, a breed of cattle is found called "Bhagalpuri." These animals are imported and are of a fair size. Cows ordinarily yield two to four seers of milk a day. A pair of cart-bullocks generally draw from eight to ten maunds, and pack-bullocks carry from one and-a-half to two and-a-half maunds. A large number of cattle die yearly of various contagious diseases like rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and black quarter. Special arrangements exist for the reporting of outbreaks, and people now give information more readily than formerly. Veterinary hospitals in charge of qualified Veterinary Assistants have been established in most districts, and Itinerating Assistants appointed to visit the villages attacked by outbreaks of disease. The method of treating cattle by inoculation is becoming popular, in spite of religious objections to it.

A large number of cattle in Bengal meet with their death by poison every year. The criminals in most of these cases are the members of the *Chamar* or *Mochi* caste, who are hereditary skinners and leather dealers and kill animals by poison for their hides. Arsenic is the poison most commonly used by these cattle poisoners. The number of samples of cattle poison annually sent to the Chemical Examiner, Bengal, gradually increased from 520 in 1901 to 1,105 in 1909, but has begun to fall since the enactment of the Indian Poisons Act (Act I of 1904), one object of which is to prevent the poisoning of cattle. Rules under sections 2 and 4 of the Act, to regulate the possession for sale and the sale of white arsenic and certain other poisons, were first framed in 1908 and revised in 1909. Under these rules every person possessing poison for sale is required to take out a license. The illicit sale of poisons has greatly decreased, but still there is reason to suspect that in certain places unlicensed sales of poisons are going on.

Buffaloes.

46. In Bengal buffaloes are employed for agricultural purposes and for other slow draught work. A very good class of animal is bred in some districts of East Bengal, especially Mymensingh, Noakhali and Backergunge. Buffaloes are now largely used in Calcutta for supplying milk, and cost on an

average Rs. 250. The *deshi* she-buffalo gives about 5 seers of milk per day, and the imported up-country buffalo 10 to 12 seers. The milk is usually very rich in butter fat, and 10 seers of it yield one seer of *ghi*. Castrated buffaloes fit for cart work cost Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 each. In Calcutta a pair in a lorry drag about two tons.

Horses.

47. It may be said that neither horse nor pony breeding exists in Bengal. The indigenous *tats* are found all over the province. but they are of a very poor stamp. In Darjeeling "Bhutia" ponies are found. They are coarse-bred animals, with upright shoulders, ugly heads and great bone, but sure-footed and hardy. They come from Tibet and Bhutan and cost about Rs. 200 each. Country-bred horses are brought down by dealers from the Punjab and Northern Provinces. Horses and ponies are also imported from Nepal and Burma. Calcutta is the great centre of the Australian horse trade, large numbers being imported as army remounts and for sale to private persons. Mule-breeding has been very unsuccessful in Bengal. Mules are purchased from Tibetan traders at Kalimpong during the cold season.

Goats.

48. Goats are bred almost everywhere in Bengal, and apparently with great success, by poor people as a supplementary means of livelihood. They are used for food and milk. Besides those locally bred, some are imported from the Punjab, called "Jamunaparis." They are large, fine animals, and give as much as ¼ to ½ seer of milk a day. It is said, however, that their milk-yield is apt to diminish in this climate. Goats are sometimes imported from Tibet, and they are remarkably fine animals, with long and straight hair.

Sheep.

49. Sheep-breeding is only carried on in the drier parts of the Presidency. The Patna breed of sheep is known to be the best in Bengal. It is believed that at some time a few rams were imported into Patna from Madras, and that these Madras rams had a strain of Merino blood in them. However, the wool of Patna sheep is much inferior to that of the worst specimens of the Merino. The breed of sheep in Bengal has, generally speaking, deteriorated. Sheep will not thrive in Eastern Bengal and those parts of the country which are under water for several months of the year, but in those districts which are dry they do very well. In Darjeeling the sheep are large, being cross-bred with the Tibetan sheep.

Poultry.

50. The poultry commonly found in Bengal consist of a motley of undersized uncared-for birds, with no qualities to recommend them either for table purposes or as egg producers. The best come from the Chittagong Division, which has a large export trade with Calcutta and Burma in both eggs and poultry. The Chittagong breed is a medium-sized game bird, buff coloured, with long, clean, yellow legs, specially suited for the delta districts of the Presidency. It is to be found perfectly pure, and the Agricultural Department has recently taken it up with a view to its preservation as a pure breed and its dissemination. English breeds of poultry are to be found here and there in the possession of planters and other Europeans who have imported them, but they are apt to deteriorate unless carefully fed and properly tended.

FISHERIES.

Fisheries.

51. Fish is one of the staple foods of the people of Bengal, and the fishery possibilities of the province are nowhere exceeded, except perhaps by those of the United States of America. The fisheries fall into three natural classes :—

(1) Fresh water, including rivers, tanks, canals and irrigation channels, as well as rice-fields during the rains, and *jhils* or tanks which are connected with rivers during the rains.
(2) Brackish water, including estuaries and lakes.
(3) Marine.

No definite calculation of the area of potential fishery tracts has as yet been undertaken. The river surface in Bengal during the dry season is roughly estimated at 3,000 square miles. The area covered by tanks and

jhils is probably not less than 8,500 square miles. There are also numerous canals and irrigation channels, and the vast tract of brackish water comprised in the Sundarbans, for which no figures are available. The coast line of Bengal is limited to about 500 miles.

The commonest edible fish are as follows :—

(1) *Fresh water.*—The following species of carp may be said to occur everywhere :—*Labeo rohita* (rohu), *labeo calbasu* (calbasu), *labeo bata* (bata), *cirrhina mrigal* (mrigal), *catla buchanani* (katla). They are cultivated largely as tank fish, the fry being obtained from rivers. Of the genus *clupea*, the species *ilisha* (hilsa) is exceedingly common, but it is not found in tanks. It is caught in large numbers in rivers and estuaries when, like the salmon, it ascends the rivers to breed. Many species of *siluridæ* are also extensively caught.

(2) *Estuarine.*—The principal estuarine fish are *polynemus paradiseus* (bhangon) and *lates calcarifer* (bekti), of which the latter is the most important. Various species of eels, shrimps, crabs and prawns are also common. Rays and sharks occur extensively, but these (with the exception of two species of trygon) properly belong to the sea.

(3) *Marine.*—There are a large number of varieties of edible sea fish. Rays and sharks of large size are exceptionally common. The flesh is not eaten in Bengal, but the salted product is considered excellent by the Tamils. A thriving industry could be built up by extracting oil from the liver of these genera, salting the flesh, exporting the fins and preparing manure. It is in the sea that fishing is least carried on. This is principally due to the difficulty in landing the fresh fish in Calcutta, and to the fact that small vessels are unable to put out to sea from June to October. Until a modern steam trawler is employed and better facilities are provided for transporting fresh fish from the sea to Calcutta, sea-fishing cannot successfully be attempted.

The nets in common use are cast nets, small seine nets, drag nets, gill nets and purse nets. Besides these, there are various kinds of bamboo structures for trapping and capturing fish. During the fine weather (November to March) large seine nets are used along the foreshore. The fishermen generally are quite ignorant of the methods of fish-curing, and large quantities of fish are regularly lost through this cause alone. Bye-products are never utilised ; means of transit of fish from one place to another are generally inadequate. There is no close season for any species of fish, and inconceivable numbers of eggs of many species are destroyed yearly. Anicuts are thrown indiscriminately across rivers and streams, and no fish-ladders provided. Carp have not yet been known or induced to breed in tanks, as they do in Europe. The spawning grounds of the Bengal "shad" (*clupea ilisha*) have also still to be determined. These questions are receiving the attention of the Department of Fisheries.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Coal.

52. Coal is worked in Bengal in the Raniganj coal-field. This area comprises the Asansol subdivision (formerly called Raniganj) of the Burdwan district, a small part of the adjoining district of Birbhum and a narrow strip of Bankura district along the river Damodar. It also extends into the neighbouring districts of Manbhum and the Santal Parganas in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. The area of the coal-field is not less than 500 square miles, exclusive of its extension under the Gangetic alluvium, where the limit of the workable coal-field has not yet been defined. This field being the nearest to Calcutta, and consequently the earliest to be connected by railway with the chief market for coal, was the first to be opened up and is still the chief producer. Coal was worked there more than a century ago, but its output merely supplied local requirements until the East Indian Railway entered the field in 1854. In spite of the difficulties caused by the scarcity of labour and the shortage of wagons, the industry has made very rapid strides of late years, and the number of mines in Burdwan rose from 37 in 1881 to 154 in 1910. Owing to the dulness of the coal market the number fell to 151 in 1911, but the output increased to over

3,850,000 tons, valued at more than Rs. 124 lakhs. The number of work-people employed is 34,000. These mines are all situated in the Asansol subdivision. There are only two small coal mines in Bankura and one in Birbhum. These mines are not in a flourishing condition, as a large portion of the coal required for local consumption is now brought by rail chiefly from the richer mines in the Raniganj coal-field at cheaper rates. Most of the coal is sent by rail to Calcutta, and from there it is exported in large quantities to Colombo and Bombay. The miners are generally Bauris from Burdwan itself or Santals, who have immigrated from the neighbouring districts. Bengal has also a considerable export trade in coal. Of the total of 889,601 tons of Indian coal exported from India in 1910-1911, Calcutta was the port of shipment for practically the entire quantity. The total amount of coal raised in India is about 12,000,000 tons, and Bengal's share is nearly 4,000,000. In quality the Bengal coals may be described as varying from good to bad, and of those which come on to the market as good to middling. The percentage of ash varies from 10 to 15 per cent: coals with less than 10 per cent. are uncommon, those with over 15 per cent. usually unsaleable; the fixed carbon varies from 50 to 60 per cent., and, speaking generally, they make good steam coals for use on land, where the extra quantity used is no material drawback if compensated by lower price. Their lowness of price has brought them into practically universal use as bunker coals in Calcutta, and very largely in other eastern ports, in spite of the drawback that about one and-a-quarter tons are required to do the work of one ton of Welsh coal.

Besides the Raniganj coal-field, there is a field in the foot-hills of the Darjeeling district. The coal is of the same age as that of the other coal-fields, but, in the disturbance of the rocks which accompanied and caused the elevation of the Himalayas, it has become so crushed as to be of little or no economic value. This, added to the difficulties and expense of mining in crushed and high-dipping strata, will prevent this field from ever attaining an economic importance, though the coal may be worked in small quantities for local consumption.

Iron.

53. The only district in Bengal that produces iron-ore is Burdwan. The iron-ore of the Raniganj field consists mainly of a clay iron-ore somewhat altered at the surface, and occurs in considerable abundance in the ironstone—shale group of the lower division of the Gondwana system. It is also found in thin alluvial deposits at a number of places. The production has fallen considerably, being only 5,456 tons, valued at £780 in 1911, against 24,387 tons, valued at £3,655 in 1910. The proximity of good coking coal at Barakar led to the formation there in 1874 of the "Bengal Iron Company" to work the ore. The works are now carried on by the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, and consist essentially of blast furnaces and a foundry. There is a large demand for their products which were valued at Rs. 31,49,527 in 1911. Howrah also possesses iron works with an outturn valued at Rs. 57,53,387.

Pottery clays.

54. Pottery clays are worked locally throughout Bengal and converted into unglazed pottery by members of the potter caste. Messrs. Burn & Co. have large pottery works at Raniganj, where stone-ware pipes, roofing and flooring tiles, fire-clay and pottery goods are made. The outturn was valued at Rs. 2,80,506 in 1911. In 1909 the Calcutta Pottery Works were started. This industry is owned and managed by Indians. The firm manufactures cheap cups and saucers, images of Indian gods and goddesses, etc., which compare favourably with imported goods. The raw material is imported from Rajmahal.

Quarry stones and lime-stones.

55. Laterite is quarried extensively in the districts of Bankura and Midnapore, and to a less extent in Birbhum. It is largely used for road metalling and as ballast for railway lines, and in a smaller degree for building purposes. Many old temples were built of this rock. None of the building stones of Bengal are of sufficiently good quality to bear long transport. Such building stones as are used in Calcutta and elsewhere, if not of local origin, come from other provinces of India. Lime-stone is quarried in Midnapore, and lime is produced from nodular lime-stone which is found in abundance in Birbhum, but only for local use.

MANUFACTURES.

Presidency Division.

56. The principal articles of manufacture are cotton twist and yarn, gunny bags, gunny cloth, silk yarn and cloth, hand-made cotton cloth, sugar, molasses and paper. Many other articles of minor importance are also made, *e.g.*, shellac, saltpetre, soap, pottery, coarse cutlery, cigarettes, tobacco and mats. Country boats are made in Jessore, and good locks in the Barrackpore subdivision of the 24-Parganas district. Clay models and figures are manufactured at Krishnagar in the Nadia district. Barasat is famous for the needlework known as *chikan*, which finds a ready sale among Europeans, and is exported to Europe and Australia. Bamboo-weaving is a favourite industry in Murshidabad, where screens, chairs and baskets are made. In this division, including Calcutta, there are 149 factories, to which the Factories Act applies, employing over 170,000 operatives. There are 39 jute mills, all in the 24-Parganas district, employing 121,870 hands. The two paper mills at Titagarh and Kankinara produce about 35,000,000 lbs. of paper yearly. There is one weaving and spinning mill, called the Mohini Cotton Mill in Kushtia, and in the same subdivision there are seven small factories for making sugar by sugarcane-pressing mills. The manufacture of sugar and molasses is one of the most important industries in the division. These are chiefly manufactured in the districts of Jessore and Khulna and in some parts of the 24-Parganas and in Nadia. Kotchandpur in Jessore and Santipur in Nadia are two of the chief places of manufacture. The industry is, however, declining owing to the competition of imported sugar. Nadia is the only district in Bengal where indigo is still manufactured. The amount produced is insignificant, only 1,000 acres being sown with indigo in 1911. The manufacture of hand-made cotton cloth is extensively carried on in the Nadia and Jessore districts. Large quantities are made in the Kushtia and Meherpur subdivisions of the former district and exported to eastern districts. Santipur is still the chief centre for the manufacture of fine hand-loom fabrics, though the industry is gradually declining. In Jessore the industry is not in a healthy state, and the weavers of Khulna district still carry on their business with the old-fashioned hand-loom. Silk, though declining, continues to be the chief manufacture of Murshidabad. The industry of ivory-carving is still carried on there, but has now very few workers in it. Another industry that deserves mention is the manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils, which is carried on chiefly in the Basirhat subdivision, Nabadwip and Meherpur. There are three cigarette factories in the 24-Parganas, fitted with modern machinery and owned and managed entirely by Indians. The export of fresh fish to Calcutta and Jessore is a profitable industry in Khulna.

Burdwan Division.

57. The most important factories in the division are the Bengal Iron and Steel Works at Barakar, Messrs. Burn & Co.'s Pottery at Raniganj, Lime Works at Ondal, Brick and Tile Works at Durgapur, the Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj, the Bansra Tanning Extract Company, the numerous jute and cotton mills in Hooghly and Howrah, and the rope and flour mills in Howrah. The total number is 82, giving employment to nearly 114,000 people. The manufacture of jute and cotton is the most important industry in this division. The cotton industry is of little importance in the Bankura and Birbhum districts. In the Ghatal subdivision of Midnapore and in Burdwan, cotton cloths are manufactured on a larger scale. Fly-shuttle looms are used to a large extent, and the cloth produced is of coarse quality. The introduction of the fly-shuttle has resulted in no noticeable improvement in the outturn of hand-looms, and the cheaper and finer machine-made cloths are more popular than before. All the cotton mills in the district of Hooghly except one are financed by European capital and managed by Europeans. Many of the Muhammadans in Hooghly engaged in the manufacture of *chikan* work (embroidery and muslin) migrate to distant parts of the world, such as America South Africa and Australia, to sell their wares, and return within a few years with a good deal of money.

The silk-weaving industry is still in a fairly prosperous condition in the district of Bankura. The chief centre is Bishnupur, where embroidered silk scarves, *saris* and dress pieces are manufactured. They are in considerable

demand both in the district and outside it. *Tasar* and silk cloths are made in Burdwan district and exported to Bombay and Madras. The industry does not exist in Howrah and is declining in the other districts. Gunny cloths and bags are manufactured in large quantities by the jute mills situated in the Serampore subdivision. Molasses are manufactured in all the districts. In Bankura district the manufacture of lac was formerly carried on extensively, but the business is on the decline owing to the competition of foreign lac. Other manufactures include bonemeal, chemicals, brass and bell-metal articles. Conch-shell bracelets are made in Birbhum and are in great demand among the women of the district. Brass and bell-metal utensils are manufactured on an extensive scale in the Bankura and Midnapore districts. The products of Arambagh subdivision are of fine quality and find a ready sale in Calcutta. Tobacco is manufactured at Bishnupur. The large and up-to-date Bengal-Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur in the Midnapore district give employment to some thousands of people, mostly from up-country.

Dacca Division.

58. The noticeable industries of the Dacca district are the manufacture of shell ornaments, of soap and of cloth. The conch-shell industry has a high reputation for the excellence of its products, and the workmanship is said to be improving. The business is confined to the shell-carvers of Dacca town. The fine hand-woven fabrics of Dacca are much admired and cannot be produced by the weaving mills, but the demand for them is limited. Gold and silver work gives employment to a certain number of people. The embroidery work known as *kashida* is largely exported to Turkey. It was formerly an important industry, but of recent years has declined. The brass and bell-metal wares of Kagmari in the Tangail subdivision of Mymensingh are good and command a sale both within and without the district. The other industries of the district comprise the manufacture of *endi* (a kind of silk cloth of coarse quality), molasses, cutlery, dried fish, mats and cane articles. In Backergunge district there are oil mills worked by steam at Jhalakati, Nalchiti and Bhola. Other articles of manufacture are cutlery, mats, cloth for mosquito curtains and molasses. Sacrificial knives or *ram-daos* are characteristic products of the district. Faridpur is famous for its fine mats of *satir*. The industry, however, is dying out owing to the costliness of the mats and a change in the taste of the people. The weaving industry, which received some impetus from the *swadeshi* movement, is reverting to its old stagnant condition. The molasses of Faridpur are famous and largely exported but the industry is stationary.

Rajshahi Division.

59. The chief articles of manufacture are silk, *gania* and tea. Silk is produced in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda; the outturn in 1911-1912 was only about 30,000 lbs. as compared with 162,559 lbs. in 1901-1902. Silk cloth is woven on hand-looms in the districts of Malda and Rajshahi. *Endi* is manufactured on a small scale in Dinajpur and Rangpur for home consumption. *Gania* of the best quality is grown in the Naogaon subdivision of Rajshahi, whence it is exported to all parts of Bengal, Assam and the United Provinces. The manufacture of tea is the principal industry in Jalpaiguri. Cotton-weaving is carried on extensively in Pabna with the hand-loom, and the cloth is said to be in great demand. Durries, *photas* or striped cotton cloths worn by women of the lower classes, and other coarse cloths, are made by hand in parts of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Rangpur. Brass and bell-metal articles are manufactured in quantities just sufficient to meet local demands. Reed mats are made in Dinajpur and Pabna for local use. Ivory carvings are done on a small scale at Panga in the Kurigram subdivision of the Rangpur district, but the industry is on the decline owing to the want of local encouragement and the contraction of the supply of raw material.

Chittagong Division.

60. Tea is the most important article of manufacture in Chittagong. The Maghs of Cox's Bazar make silk and cotton *lungis* for their own use, and the Jugis of Chittagong manufacture coarse cloth, but both industries are declining. Brass utensils, bamboo and cane baskets, agricultural implements and molasses are the chief manufactures in Tippera. A kind of coarse cloth made at Maynamati near Comilla finds an extensive sale in the local markets and is exported to the neighbouring districts and to Calcutta. There is a workshop at Chandpur which manufactures ordinary iron instruments,

and also an oil mill. No manufactures of importance are carried on in Noakhali. Coarse varieties of cotton cloth, bamboo mats, baskets and agricultural implements are made for local use. Tea, molasses and cotton cloth are the only articles of manufacture in the Hill Tracts. Dug-outs are made and exported in large numbers to Chittagong and other neighbouring districts, where they are shaped and finished.

POLITICAL.

Historical Summary of the Civil Administration of Bengal.

First English settlement in Bengal.

61. The English first came to Bengal in 1633, when Mr. Ralph Cartwright obtained a *parwana* for free trade in Orissa from the *Nawab*, and accordingly established factories at Balasore and Hariharapur, now known as Jagatsinghapur. The latter factory was soon abandoned. In 1650 the English established themselves at Hooghly. The trade in the Bay of Bengal was at first regarded as a mere extension of the coast trade. Hence the factories in the Bay were subordinate with those of the coast, first to Bantam, then to Surat, and lastly to Fort St. George, when it became an independent agency. The first independent Governor of the English in Bengal was William (afterwards Sir William) Hedges, appointed in 1682, but recalled in 1684, when the Bay was again made subordinate to Fort St. George.

The English on several occasions obtained grants for free trade from Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb and from the subordinate governors of Bengal. The story that the first of these grants was obtained through the influence of a Surgeon, Gabriel Boughton, is not supported by historical evidence, and is probably incorrect. It was, however, found that the grants and orders of the Indian Government were no sufficient protection to the trade.

Calcutta founded, 1690.

62. In 1686 the English Company broke with the Indian Government, and ordered their agents to seize some place of defence in Bengal, and make it the centre of their trade. After several years of fighting and debate, at the instance of Job Charnock, the new centre of trade was fixed at Calcutta where the English made their final settlement on the 24th August 1690. In 1696, in consequence of the disturbances caused by the rebellion of Subha Singha, the English were permitted by the Local Government to fortify their settlement at Calcutta, and at the end of the year the building of the fort was begun by the Agent, Charles Eyre. In 1698 the Prince Azim-ush-shan, grandson of Aurangzeb and Subadar of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, allowed the Company's Agent to purchase the talukdar's right to the three villages of Calcutta, Sutanuti and Govindpur.

Governor of Fort William in Bengal.

63. In 1700 the fort was enlarged and called Fort William, Bengal was made an independent presidency, and Sir Charles Eyre was appointed first President and Governor of Fort William in Bengal. He was succeeded by John Beard, who vigorously carried on the building of the fort. The British flag was hoisted in Calcutta on the 6th October 1703. From 1704 to 1710 Calcutta was under the "Rotation Government," under a Council over which a different member presided in alternate weeks. But in 1710 the line of Presidents and Governors was restored in the person of Captain Anthony Wellden, and has since continued unbroken.

In 1717 the United Company obtained a royal grant from the Emperor Farrukhsiyar, granting them, besides privileges of trade, permission to purchase the talukdari of 38 additional villages adjacent, subject to an annual revenue of Rs. 8,121, but the opposition of Murshid Quli Khan prevented them from actually acquiring the villages. Nevertheless by recognising and legalising their claims the royal grant benefited the English, and the *Nawab* by refusing to allow them to occupy the 38 villages furnished them with a standing legitimate ground of complaint which they urged with effect under Clive.

64. The treaty with Siraj-ud-daula in February 1757, after the recapture of Calcutta, by the fourth article of which the Company were "allowed to fortify Calcutta in such manner as they might esteem proper," and by the fifth of which it was stipulated "that *siccas* be coined at Alinagar (Calcutta) in the same manner as at Murshidabad," with a general promise of amity, may be considered to have first established the Company's territorial character in Bengal. On the 4th June 1757, moreover, by a treaty entered into with Jafar Ali Khan this agreement was confirmed, and the Company's zamindari extended six hundred yards without the ditch of Calcutta, and over the 24-Parganas south of Calcutta as far as Calpi. **24-Parganas, 1757.**

65. In the treaty concluded with the Nawab Mir Muhammad Kasim Ali Khan, on the 27th September 1760, it was agreed that Kasim should succeed as Nawab of the Subahdari of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa; that the English army should be ready to assist him in the management of affairs, and that the lands of the *chaklas* (districts) of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong should be assigned for all the Company's charges. A complete and full cession of these three districts was then effected and confirmed again by Jafar Ali Khan in the treaty for his reinstatement dated 10th July 1763. **Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, 1760.**

66. After the expulsion of the Nawab Kasim Ali Khan and the decisive battle of Buxar, the Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa* was conferred in perpetuity on the East India Company by the Emperor Shah Alam, under a royal grant dated the 12th August 1765. As the Dewani included the administration of civil justice as well as the collection of the revenue, the grant constituted the English the virtual rulers of the three provinces. The *Nawab* of Bengal recognized this grant under an agreement dated 30th September in the same year, and consented to accept a fixed stipend for the maintenance of himself and his household. **Grant of dewani, August 12th, 1765.**

In 1766 Lord Clive, then President of the Council of Fort William, took his place as Dewan, and in concert with the Nawab, who sat as Nazim, opened the *puneah*, or ceremonial of commencing the annual collections in durbar held at Motijhil, near Murshidabad.

But though the civil and military power of the country and the resources for maintaining it were now in the hands of the East India Company, it was not thought prudent to vest the immediate management of the revenue, or the administration of justice, in the European servants. There was a resident at this time at the Nawab's court who inspected the management of the Naib Dewan, and a chief who superintended the collections of the province of Bihar under the immediate management of a distinguished native, Shitab Roy; but, with these exceptions, there were no other covenanted servants of the Company in the interior, except those who were administering the zamindari lands of Calcutta and the 24-Parganas, and the ceded districts of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, which had again been confirmed to the Company in perpetuity by a royal grant.

67. In 1769 Supervisors were appointed by Mr. Verelat, with powers of superintending the native officers employed in collecting the revenue or administering justice in different parts of the country; and councils, with superior authority, were in 1770 established at Murshidabad and Patna. The Supervisors were furnished with detailed instructions for obtaining an account of the provinces; the state produce and capacity of the lands; the account of the revenues, the cesses, or arbitrary taxes and of all demands whatsoever which are made on the cultivators; the manner of collecting them, and the gradual rise of every new impost; the regulation of commerce and the administration of justice. The information elicited by these enquiries showed the internal government to be in a state of profound disorder, and the people to be suffering great oppression. Nevertheless seven years elapsed from the acquisition of the Dewani before the Government deemed itself competent to remedy these defects. It was not till 1772 that the Court of Directors resolved to "stand forth as Dewan, and by the agency of the Company's **Supervisors, 1769.**

* The Orissa of the last century included only the district of Midnapore and a part of Hooghly, or more accurately the tract of country lying between the rivers Subarnarekha and Rupnarayan. Orissa Proper was conquered and annexed from the Mahrattas by Lord Wellesley in 1803.

servants to take upon themselves the entire care and management of the revenue."

Mr. Hastings' Regulations, 1772. Supervisors designated Collectors.

68. By the adoption of a plan then proposed by Mr. Hastings and four Members of his Council, the institutions of the internal government were established as follows :—

In the Revenue Department, at the Presidency, a Board of Revenue was appointed, consisting of the President and Members of Council, with an Accountant-General and assistants. The exchequer and treasury were removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta. In respect to the provinces, it was resolved that the Supervisors should now be designated Collectors, with each of whom an Indian officer, chosen by the Board and styled Dewan, was joined in the superintendence of the revenues.

Collectors preside over Civil and Revenue Courts : Indian Criminal Courts.

69. Under the regulations framed for the Judicial Department, two courts were instituted for each provincial Division or Collectorship—one by the name of Dewani or Civil Court, for the cognizance of civil causes ; the other named Faujdari or Criminal Court, for the trial of crimes and misdemeanours. The Collector presided over the Civil Court, attended by the provincial Indian Dewan and other officers. In the Criminal Court the Kazi and Mufti of the district and two Maulvis sat to expound the Muhammadan law, and to determine how far delinquents were guilty of its violation ; but it was the Collector's duty to attend to the proceedings of this Court so far as to see that all necessary witnesses were summoned and examined, and that the decision passed was fair and impartial. The Collector had no further concern in the criminal administration. Appeals from these Courts were allowed to two superior Courts established at the chief seat of Government,—one under the denomination of Dewani Sadar Adalat, or Chief Court of Civil Judicature ; the other, the Nizamat Sadar Adalat, or Chief Court of Criminal Justice.

Chief or Sadar Courts.

70. The Chief Civil Court consisted of the President and Members of Council, assisted by Indian officers. In the Chief Criminal Court a Chief Officer of Justice presided, appointed by the Nazim, and assisted by the head Kazi and Mufti and three eminent Maulvis. Over this latter Court, however, a control was vested in the President and Council, similar to that exercised by the Collectors in the provinces.

A short experience, however, showed that the superintendence over criminal justice, when exercised by the President, involved too heavy duties, and in October 1775 the Court of Nizamat Adalat was moved back to Murshidabad and placed under the control of the well-known Muhammad Reza Khan, who was appointed Naib Nazim.

Collectors withdrawn.

71. In the meantime (1774) the European Collectors were also recalled from the provinces, and Indian Amils were appointed in their stead. A new system of police was introduced. Indian officers, styled faujdars, were appointed to the fourteen districts or local jurisdictions into which Bengal was divided.

Provincial Revenue Councils established, 1774.

72. The superintendence of the collection of the revenue, removed from the Collectors, was vested in six Provincial Councils, which were established at Calcutta, Burdwan, Dacca, Murshidabad, Dinajpur and Patna. The administration of civil justice was, on the same principle, transferred to the Amils.

Provincial Civil Judges established independent of Revenue Courts, 1780.

73. Vital changes were, however, speedily effected in these arrangements. The constitution of the Dewani Adalat was transformed by the establishment in 1780, in each of the six great Provincial Divisions, of a Court of Justice distinct from, and independent of, the Revenue Council. Over this Court a covenanted servant presided, whose jurisdiction extended over all civil and rent cases. These six divisions were, in their civil aspect, augmented shortly to eighteen, in consequence of the inconvenience experienced from the too extensive jurisdiction of the six before instituted. The Judges of these Courts were wholly unconnected with the Revenue Department, except in the four frontier districts of Chittra (or Hazaribagh), Bhagalpur, Islambad (or Chittagong) and Rangpur, where, for local reasons, the offices of Judge, Magistrate and Collector were vested in the same person, but with a provision that the judicial authority should be considered distinct from, and independent of, revenue functions.

74. Simultaneously with the extension of the Civil Courts the Provincial Councils were abolished, and all the revenue affairs of the provinces brought down gradually to the Presidency, there to be administered by five of the most able and experienced of the Civil Servants, under the designation of a "Committee of Revenue." One President of each Provincial Council was, however, to remain officiating as Collector under the Committee of Revenue until further orders, as likewise were the four Judge-Magistrate-Collectors, who had been separately sanctioned in the frontier and least civilized districts.

Provincial Revenue Councils abolished: Collectorships reinstituted, 1781.

75. The establishment of faujdars and thanadars, introduced in 1774, was also abolished in 1781, and the eighteen Civil Judges "were invested with the power, as Magistrates, of apprehending dacoits and persons charged with the commission of any crime or acts of violence within their respective jurisdictions." They were not, however, to try or punish such persons, but "were to send them immediately to the daroga of the nearest Faujdari Court, with a charge in writing setting forth the grounds on which they had been apprehended." They had merely powers to act as an executive police, leaving the trial and the infliction of punishment to the native Muhammadan officials. Provision was at the same time made for cases where, by special permission of the Governor-General and Council, "certain zamindars might be invested with such part of the police jurisdiction as they formerly exercised under the ancient Mughal Government." In such cases the European Judge, in his capacity of Magistrate, the daroga of the Criminal Court and the zamindar, were to exercise a concurrent authority for the prevention of crimes.

Civil Judges vested with Executive Magisterial powers, 1781.

76. Under the instructions which Lord Cornwallis brought with him from England in 1786, the revenue and judicial institutions of the country were again modified. The designation of the Committee of Revenue was changed to that of Board of Revenue. Its authority and functions were continued. The European Civil Servants superintending the several districts into which the country was divided were each of them vested with the united powers of Collector, Civil Judge and Magistrate. In proposing this union of different authorities in the same person, the Court of Directors were influenced by the consideration of its having "a tendency to simplicity, energy, justice and economy." They placed on record that they were actuated by the necessity of accommodating "their views and interests to the subsisting manners and usages of the people, rather than by any abstract theories drawn from other countries, or applicable to a different state of things."

Union of the offices of Collector, Civil Judge and Magistrate, 1786.

It was only in the administration of justice in the *cities* of Murshidabad, Dacca and Patna that District Courts were established, superintended by a Judge and Magistrate.

77. The administration of criminal justice remained, however, vested in the Naib Nazim, or Deputy of the Nawab, to whose Courts, which were superintended by the Muhammadan Law officers, almost all criminals apprehended by the Magistrate were referred for trial. The Collector, in his capacity of Magistrate, could only decide upon the most petty charges. But towards the end of 1790 a very important change took place in this arrangement. It was declared that, with a view "to ensure a prompt and impartial administration of the criminal law, and in order that all ranks of people might enjoy security of person and property, the Governor-General in Council has resolved to accept the superintendence of the administration of criminal justice throughout the provinces." In conformity with this Resolution the Nizamat Adalat, or Chief Criminal Court of Justice, was again removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta, to consist of the Governor-General and Members of the Supreme Council, assisted by the head Indian Law officers. Four Courts of Circuit, superintended respectively by covenanted servants of the Company, each with their Muhammadan Law officers, were in 1793 established for the trial of cases not punishable by the Magistrates.

Function of a Criminal Sessions Court still discharged by Indian Officers.

Criminal administration assumed by the British.

78. Lord Cornwallis, moreover, differing from the Court of Directors, and deeming it incompatible with the principles of his system that Revenue officers should decide on suits the cause of which, originating in their own department, might render them not wholly disinterested in the decision, annulled (1793) the judicial power of all officers of the revenue, and transferred the cognizance of all matters, wherein the Government might be

Separation of District Offices: Civil Judge and Magistrate remain united; Collector separated, 1793.

concerned, to the Courts of Dewani Adalat. A new Court of Civil Judicature was established in every district. The new Judge was a European covenanted servant, of higher official rank than the Collector,* uniting in his person the powers of Magistrate as well as of Civil Judge, and controlling the police within the limits of his division. This arrangement long continued, one officer in each district being Judge and Magistrate, and another Collector.

To the Courts of Justice a Registrar and one or more assistants were appointed from the junior branch of the European Covenanted Service. The assistants were assistants to the Judge and Magistrate in both capacities. As assistants to the Magistrate they could be empowered by him to decide on cases to the same extent that the Magistrate himself was authorised under the Regulations of 1793. The Registrar was empowered to try civil causes not exceeding 200 rupees.

Indian Civil Judges, Munsifs, 1793.

79. At the same time a Regulation was enacted authorising the appointment of Indian Commissioners to hear and decide, in the first instance, on suits of personal property not exceeding the value of 50 rupees. These were of three descriptions, viz., *Amins*, or referees; *Salisan*, or arbitrators; and *Munsifs*, or Indian justices. The referees and arbitrators were usually Kazis appointed by virtue of their offices; the Munsifs were more carefully selected. They were not paid by fixed salary, but by commission on the amount of causes investigated by them. Appeals from their decision lay to the Civil Judge.

Four Provincial Courts of Circuit and Appeal.

80. In order to ensure the hearing of appeals from the Judge, which had previously lain direct to the Governor-General at Calcutta, Lord Cornwallis established, by Regulation V of 1793, four Provincial Courts of Appeal. One was instituted in the vicinity of Calcutta, one at the city of Patna, another at Dacca and the fourth at Murshidabad, each Court being superintended by three Covenanted Civilian Judges. To these Courts a Registrar and one or more covenanted assistants were attached. An appeal lay from them to the Sadar Dewani Adalat, or Governor-General and Council in Calcutta, when the suit exceeded Rs. 5,000 in extent.

These Civil Courts were identical with the Courts of Circuit that were simultaneously appointed, and of which notice has been taken above. The same officers, European and Indians were attached to the Courts alike in their civil and criminal jurisdictions.

The territorial jurisdiction of these Courts as laid down by Regulation V of 1793 were as follows :—

(1) Calcutta Division—

24-Parganas, Burdwan, Jungle Mahals, Midnapore, including the salt districts to the west of the Hooghly river, Jessore, Nadia and the zillas of Calcutta, Serampore and Birbhum.

(2) Dacca Province—

Dacca, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Tippera, Chittagong and Dacca-Jellalpur.†

(3) Murshidabad Division—

Murshidabad, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and the districts under the superintendence of the Commissioner at Cooch Behar which are not included in the independent territories of the Raja of Cooch Behar.

(4) Patna Division—

Patna, Ramghur, and the zillas of Bihar Proper, Tirhut, Saran and Shahabad.

* The existing Collectors were, in point of fact, appointed Judges, while their head assistants were appointed to the different Collectorates, for which, said the Government Minute, "they will be found sufficiently qualified."

†The districts of Dacca-Jellalpur and of the city of Dacca were abolished by Regulation V of 1833, and formed into the single district of Dacca. Jellalpur is the name of a pargana in the Faridpur district. The original Dacca-Jellalpur included that zilla, and the head-quarters of the district were in 1812 located at Faridpur. In 1833 the independent Joint-Magistracy and Deputy Collectorate at Faridpur was established, and was declared a full Magistracy and Collectorate on the reorganization of 1859.

Changes in the constitution of the Sadar Court. Regulation II, 1801.

81. The Governor-General and Council, who were at this period discharging the duties of both the Sadar Dewani and Sadar Nizamat Adalat, soon found that more of their time was occupied in these functions than could conveniently be spared. Lord Wellesley, moreover, placed it on record that he deemed "it essential to the impartial, prompt and efficient administration of justice, and to the permanent security of the persons and properties of the Indian inhabitants of these provinces, that the Governor-General in Council, exercising the supreme legislative and executive authority of the State, should administer judicial functions of Government by the means of courts of justice distinct from the legislative and executive authority." It was accordingly determined that the Government should relinquish the chief civil and criminal jurisdiction, and place it in the hands of a court of justice, over which were to preside three Judges, the Chief Judge being a member of the Supreme Council and the other two selected members of the Covenanted Civil Service.

The Sadar Court remained as the Court of final appeal in this Presidency without any radical modifications until it was united with the Supreme Court in 1862, and both together were amalgamated into the present High Court. The Sadar Court was latterly composed of five or six Covenanted Civilians more or less, as might be necessary.

The Supreme Court, 1774.

82. The Supreme Court, which was an entirely separate institution, was governed by English law and administered by three Judges, Barristers-at-Law appointed by the Crown, of whom the chief was styled Chief Justice. The Supreme Court was established by the Letters Patent which the King was empowered in the Regulating Act to grant, and dated 26th March 1774. It had full local jurisdiction in Calcutta, and also personal jurisdiction over all persons in the employment of the Company, including zamindars, revenue farmers and contractors in the mufassal. This extensive power led to confusion and injustice, and a new Act was passed in 1781, defining and limiting the powers of the Crown Court. In general terms it may be said that till its abolition the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was confined to the limits of the city of Calcutta, between the Hooghly and the Mahratta Ditch, and to the determination of all serious criminal cases in which European British subjects were accused and committed for trial. It was strictly interdicted by law from interfering in matters of revenue.

The High Court established, 1862.

83. On the 14th May 1862 the High Court of Judicature in Bengal was established by Letters Patent. The Sadar and Supreme Courts were abolished at the same time by Act 24 and 25 Vict., Cap. 104. The combined powers and authorities of the abolished Courts, and their jurisdiction both over the provinces of Bengal, and Bihar and Orissa and the Presidency town, were vested in the High Court. The maximum number of Judges to be appointed to the High Court was then fixed at fifteen. On the 1st January 1866 fresh Letters Patent were issued, and further provision was made respecting the jurisdiction of the Court. In 1911 Act 24 and 25 Vict., Cap. 104, was amended by Act 1 and 2 Geo. 5, Cap. 18. This Act increased the maximum number of Judges from fifteen to twenty, and authorised the Governor-General in Council to appoint from time to time additional Judges for a period not exceeding two years.

Changes in the constitution of the Board of Revenue: Board of Commissioners in the Upper Provinces, 1807.

84. In 1795 laws were published for the newly-acquired province of Benares. In 1805 the laws and regulations that had been established in the ceded and conquered provinces on the Upper Ganges* were codified. In 1807 (Regulation X) a commission was constituted, consisting of two members, for the superintendence of the settlement of these provinces, and for the general control of the Collectors in the discharge of their several public duties. These Commissioners were vested in those provinces with all the authority that had hitherto been exercised by the Board of Revenue of Calcutta. By Regulation I of 1809 this Board of Commissioners in the Upper Provinces was declared permanent. At the same time all the powers

* The Province of Benares was added to the Company's dominions in 1795. By a treaty, bearing date the 20th November 1801, the Nawab Vizier of Oudh ceded the valuable districts of that province which were officially known as the ceded districts in Oudh. The conquered provinces of the Regulations were conquered from the Marhatta Chieftains, Scindia, the Berar Rajah and others. These provinces comprehend the principal part of the Dooab, or tract of country between the rivers Ganges and Jumna; the country situated on the right bank of the latter river, from Delhi to near its confluence with the Ganges, and the modern province of Orissa.

that up to this period had been exercised by the Calcutta Sadar Board of Revenue in the province of Benares were transferred to the Board of Commissioners.

Board of Commissioners in Bihar and Benares, 1817.

85. In 1816 (Regulation I) a separate Commissioner was appointed for the superintendence of the revenues of the province of Benares, and that part of the province of Bihar which was comprised in the zillas of Bihar, Shahabad, Saran and Tirhut. He was vested with all the authority that had previously been exercised in these provinces by the Board of Revenue and Board of Commissioners, respectively. By Regulation I of 1817 the authority of the Bihar-Benares Commissioner was extended to the districts of Ramghur, Bhagalpur and Purnea. In the same year it was found advisable to appoint two Commissioners in place of the single officer. "The Board of Commissioners in Bihar and Benares" was accordingly established, and as a special case the general revenues of Dinajpur and Rangpur were also entrusted to this Board. By Regulation I of 1819 the management of the revenues of Dinajpur and Rangpur was replaced under the Calcutta Board of Revenue. The powers of a single Member of the Calcutta Board of Revenue to exercise any and all the powers of Board collectively, and the full powers of a commission of the Board into the interior, were also established under Regulation XIII of 1811. The powers thus granted were, in 1871, acted upon by Government, and each Member of the Board was empowered to exercise the full powers of the Board of Revenue.

Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces, 1822.

86. By Regulation III of 1822 considerable changes were effected in these arrangements: (1) the duties, powers and authority of the Board of Commissioners in Bihar and Benares within the districts of Bhagalpur and Purnea were vested again in the Calcutta Board of Revenue, which continued to exercise its powers in the districts subordinate to its authority, and was to be denominated the Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces; (2) the duties, powers and authority exercised by the Board of Commissioners in the ceded and conquered provinces within the southern and northern Divisions of Bundelkhand and the districts of Allahabad and Cawnpore were vested in the Board of Commissioners in Bihar and Benares, which continued in like manner to exercise its power in the districts hitherto subordinate to its authority, with the exceptions just named, and was to be denominated the Board of Revenue for the Central Provinces; and (3) the several districts of the ceded and conquered provinces, with the exception of the districts above specified, were to continue subordinate to the Board of Commissioners, which was to be denominated the Board of Revenue for the Western Provinces. In 1829, as will presently be explained, the powers of the several local Boards of Revenue were made over to the Commissioners of Revenue and Circuit under the control of a Chief or Sadar Board of Revenue at Calcutta.

Board of Revenue for the Central Provinces.

Board of Revenue for the Western Provinces.

Superintendent of Police.

87. A Superintendent of Police was first appointed under Regulation X, 1808, for the Divisions of Calcutta, Dacca and Murshidabad, and under Regulation VIII, 1810, similar arrangements were adopted for Patna, Benares and Bareilly. These officers were abolished by Regulation I of 1829, and their duties were transferred to the Commissioners of Revenue and Circuit. Under Act XXIV of 1837 the Government was again empowered to appoint a Superintendent of Police, and in such case the Commissioner was to cease to exercise any powers in regard to the Magistracy and Police. In Bengal a single Superintendent of Police was accordingly appointed. After a short experience, however, it was found advisable to exempt from his jurisdiction the extra Regulation provinces of Assam and of the south-western frontier and the province of Orissa, and to replace them under the Divisional Commissioners. The Division of Chittagong was similarly removed in 1850. On the 26rd March 1854 the Court of Directors sanctioned the abolition of the appointment of Superintendent of Police, and the transfer of his duties to the respective Revenue Commissioners.

It has been stated that under the Code of 1793 the Civil Judges were constituted Magistrates of their respective jurisdictions, and that the offices of Judge and Magistrate long remained united. The separation was not actually effected for nearly forty years; but in 1810 a permissive regulation was passed (Regulation XVI of 1810), by which Government was empowered to make a distinct appointment of a Magistrate.

LORD WILLIAM BENTINCK.

88. The system introduced by Cornwallis and Barlow lasted during successive administrations, with only the necessary modifications engrafted on it by time and circumstances; but under Lord William Bentinck extensive changes were again effected. By Regulation I of 1829 the executive officers of both police and revenue were placed under the superintendence of Commissioners of Revenue and Circuit, each of whom was vested with the charge of four or five districts. Lord William Bentinck abolished the provincial Courts, stigmatizing them "as resting-places for those members of the service who were deemed unfit for higher responsibilities." The Commissioners were appointed to go on circuit as Sessions Judges. The appointment of Superintendent of Police was abolished and vested in the Commissioner, with the fullest police control. The Revenue Boards in the Provinces were also abolished, and their powers vested in the Commissioners under the control of the Sadar Board at Calcutta. The Commissioners were absolutely to superintend both the finance and the criminal justice of their different divisions.

Provincial Courts abolished, 1829. Commissioners of Revenue and Circuit: their powers—Judicial, Revenue and Police.

89. These arrangements were not, however, found completely successful, and after a very few years the Governor-General exercised his right of transferring the judicial powers of the Commissioners to the Civil Judges. It was declared (Regulation VII of 1831) competent to Government to invest the Civil Judges with full powers to conduct the duties of the Sessions, and by Act III of 1835 the Government was authorized "to transfer any part or the whole of the duties connected with criminal justice from any Commissioners of Circuit to any Sessions Judges, and to define the powers which shall be exercised by each respectively." Commissioners, however, still continued to hold judicial powers, and were occasionally so employed. But Regulation VII of 1831 and Act III of 1835 were both repealed by Act VIII of 1868, and under the present law Commissioners have no such powers, as all Sessions Judges and officers invested with powers of Sessions Judges are appointed under the rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Civil Judges vested with Sessions powers, 1831—1835.

90. The Judges under Lord William Bentinck's arrangement held a jail delivery every month. But the Judges were also the Magistrates, and as such it became evident that they were unable to cope with their additional duties. It was considered (1831) necessary to divest them of their magisterial responsibilities, and these were accordingly transferred to the Collector. This was the creation of the present unit of the administration, the Magistrate and Collector, or executive head, of each district.

Civil Judges divested of Magisterial powers. Union of Magistrate and Collector, 1831.

Under Regulation VIII of 1833 the appointment of Additional Judges was sanctioned, who were to perform any part of the duties of the District Judges to which they might be appointed.

91. In 1831 Lord William Bentinck established also a higher grade of Indian Judgeships. Previously to this period there had been in fact but two classes of Indian Judges, with very limited powers and small salaries. The higher class was known as "Sadar Amins," the lower as "Munsifs." The Munsifs, originally denominated Commissioners, had been appointed by Lord Cornwallis to relieve the pressure on the European Judges. In 1803 the office of Sadar Amin was instituted, with a jurisdiction extending to suits of Rs. 100. In 1821, after some intermediate enlargement of the powers of both classes, the Munsifs had been empowered to try cases extending to Rs. 150, whilst the Sadar Amins took cognizance of cases to the amount of Rs. 500. In 1827 the authority of the latter class of officers had been doubled. Lord William Bentinck now established a superior class of judicial officers, known as Principal Sadar Amins, with enlarged powers and higher salaries. They were subsequently authorized to try cases involving property to any amount, and an appeal lay from them to the European Judges.

Principal Sadar Amins.

92. The Small Cause Courts in Bengal were established by Sir John Peter Grant under Act XLII of 1860. In 1867 the Judges of the Small Cause Courts and the Principal Sadar Amins and Munsifs were amalgamated into one service. Small Cause Court Judges and Principal Sadar Amins have since been called indifferently Subordinate Judges, and are eligible alike for Small Cause Court work or for the work of the ordinary Civil Courts.

Small Cause Courts and Subordinate Judges.

93. The office of Uncovenanted Deputy Collector was established under Regulation IX of 1833. The appointment was, in the first instance,

Deputy Collectors.

open only to "natives of India of any class or religious persuasion," but was extended by Act X of 1843 to all persons of whatever religion, place of birth, descent or colour.

Separation of Agra and Assam from Bengal.

94. Up to 1834 the whole of the Bengal Presidency, including Assam, Benares and the ceded and conquered provinces of Upper India, was directly administered by the Governor-General of Bengal in Council. In 1834 the Governor-General in Council became Governor-General of India, and Bengal was then governed by the Governor-General in the capacity of Governor of Bengal without a Council. At the same time power was given to create a separate Governor of Agra, which was shortly modified, a Lieutenant-Governor being substituted for a Governor in 1836. After this reform no change was made in the territorial jurisdiction of the Lower Provinces for forty years. In 1874, however, it having been found that the charge of the province of Assam formed an inconvenient addition to the heavy work arising from the administration of Bengal, with which it had little in common, it was resolved to carry out a change which had been proposed some years previously. In February 1874 the Assam Division, together with the three districts of Sylhet, Cachar and the Garo Hills, was separated from Bengal, and formed into a separate administration on the model of the Central Provinces and British Burma. From this time the civil history of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa becomes entirely separate from that of the Upper Provinces on the one hand and that of Assam on the other.

Appointment of Deputy Magistrates, 1843.

95. The machinery of the revenue administration and civil justice having been strengthened, the expediency of a more extensive employment of uncovenanted agency in the Criminal branch of the Judicial Department forced itself into notice. But it was not till 1843 that an Act was framed by the Legislative Council, empowering the Government to appoint in any district one or more uncovenanted Deputy Magistrates, with or without police powers as might be determined.

Separation of the office of Magistrate and Collector, 1837.

96. The union of the offices of Magistrate and Collector, as established under Lord William Bentinck, was, however, only of temporary duration. It also happened that at that time the business of a Collector became engrossing and onerous, while the duties of the Magistracy were comparatively disregarded. The additional work imposed by the operations for the resumption of revenue-free tenures was treated as if it had been permanent. In 1837 Lord Auckland and the Court of Directors sanctioned the separation of the offices of Magistrate and Collector.

The progress of separation of the office of Magistrate and Collector went on gradually until 1845. In that year the Magisterial and Fiscal offices were disunited everywhere except in three districts of Orissa, and in the independent Joint-Magistracies of Pabna, Malda, Bogra, Bhuluah (or Noakhali), Faridpur, Bankura, Barasat and Champaran. The salaries of the separated Collectors were uniformly fixed at Rs. 23,000 a year, except in Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Birbhum where they were Rs. 18,000; but the salaries of Magistrates, which it was intended at the time of separation should be in two grades of Rs. 18,000 and Rs. 12,000, were reduced in 1842 by order of the Court of Directors to Rs. 10,800 per annum.

Creation of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

97. At this point may be noticed the creation of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. In 1854 the Government of Bengal was entrusted to a Lieutenant-Governor, and the personal connection with the Government of India, which had resulted from the union of the offices of Governor-General of India and Governor of Bengal, ceased to exist. Henceforth the Government of India became entirely distinct from that of Bengal.

Reunion of Magistrates and Collectors, 1859.

98. In 1859 the offices of Magistrate and Collector were again united. This reunion had been the subject of anxious deliberation in India for six years before it was finally resolved upon. The measure was strongly advocated by Sir Frederick Halliday, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, by Lord Dalhousie, and by Lord Canning, and was as strongly opposed by Sir John Peter Grant. It was sanctioned by Lord Stanley, who was then Secretary of State for India, in his despatch No. 15, dated 14th April 1859. He directed—"(1) that the offices of Magistrate and Collector, where now disunited in Bengal, should be combined in the same person, and that such of the covenanted officers as are now Magistrates, and are not absorbed in the

higher office, should be employed as Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, but without any decrease of salary; and (2) that the Joint Magistrate in each district should ordinarily have the superintendence of the police under the general control of the Magistrate." These orders were rapidly carried out in all the districts of Bengal where the appointments were separate.

The independent Joint-Magistracies abolished.

99. At the same time seven of the eight independent Joint-Magistracies already alluded to were established full Magistracies and Collectorates. At first these were offshoots from large districts, and were created as *quasi* subdivisions in the early part of this century, to stem the tide of crime and dacoity in localities remote from the head-quarters station. The Joint-Magistrates of these subdivisions, from exercising a joint jurisdiction with the Magistrate of the district, gradually came to exercise independent criminal powers, but in revenue matters they never were invested with more than the powers of a Deputy Collector, and the land revenue always continued to be paid at the head-quarters treasury. Of these eight Joint-Magistracies and Deputy Collectorates, four were upon Rs. 18,000 per annum, and four upon Rs. 12,000. At the time of the reunion of the offices of Magistrate and Collector, Barasat was reduced to an ordinary subdivision.

The present grade of Joint-Magistrate.

100. The present Joint-Magistrates were created by Lord William Bentinck, in order to afford more efficient aid to the Magistrate-Collectors than could be given to them by mere assistants vested only with the powers of an Assistant under the regulations. Lord William Bentinck established two classes of covenanted officers subordinate to the District Officer—one, a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector on a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month; the other, a Head Assistant on Rs. 700. The latter was abolished by Government order dated August 16th, 1836, and a second grade of Joint-Magistracy was constituted in its stead on the same salary, but with the full powers of a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector. The first were appointed Magistrates when the separation of the offices had been resolved upon, and now correspond to the first-grade Joint-Magistrates. The salary of the appointment, as has been intimated, was reduced to Rs. 900 a month in 1842.

The Bengal Police Act, 1861.

101. In 1861, shortly after the reunion of Collectorates and Magistracies, the police was established as a separate department under the Magistrate; and District Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police were appointed to discipline the force. An Inspector-General and Deputy Inspectors-General were placed at the head of the police to supervise and inspect the department.

Modification of grades of Magistrate and Collector, 1860.

102. At this time the 36 Regulation districts in these provinces were in charge of Magistrates and Collectors receiving the following salaries:—

In 2 districts	Rs. 28,000 per annum.*	In 7 districts	Rs. 18,000 per annum.
„ 22 „	„ 23,000 „	„ 4 „	„ 12,000 „

These salaries were local, the salaries of particular classes being attached to particular districts. To remove the administrative inconveniences which resulted from this arrangement, Sir John Peter Grant proposed in that year the following changes: *firstly*, that the salaries of Magistrates and Collectors be made *personal*, instead of *local*, by throwing these officers into grades; and, *secondly*, that there be only two instead of four such grades or classes of Collector and Magistrate, with corresponding rates of salary. He provided for 20 Magistrate-Collectors in the first grade, on Rs. 23,000 per annum; one Magistrate and one Collector at the 24-Parganas, each of whom drew the full salary of Rs. 23,000; and 15 Magistrate-Collectors in the second grade, on Rs. 18,000—altogether 37 officers. The separate appointments of Magistrate and Collector in the 24-Parganas were amalgamated in April 1865 into a single first-grade Magistrate-Collector. The number was thus reduced to 36. At the same time two officers were taken from the second grade and added to the first grade. There were therefore 23 Magistrate-Collectors sanctioned in the first grade and 13 in the second grade. Subsequently, in 1873, in pursuance of the policy initiated by Sir George Campbell for separating the Executive and Judicial branches of the Civil Service and equalizing

* These three officers were the Magistrate-Collectors of Puri, Balasore and Cuttack, who were Salt Agents as well.

the rates of salary in both, a new gradation was introduced. The 36 Magistrate-Collectors were divided into three grades. The first grade included 15 officers on Rs. 2,250 per mensem, the second grade 15 officers on Rs. 1,800 per mensem, and the new third-grade 6 officers on Rs. 1,500 per mensem.

Since that time several re-adjustments of the cadre have been made in consequence of territorial changes. There are now (1st April 1912) 12 officers in the first grade, 13 in the second grade and 14 in the third grade.

In consequence of representations made as to the inferiority of the position and prospects of the Judicial branch of the superior Civil Service as compared with the Executive branch, sanction was accorded by the Secretary of State in 1900 to the re-organisation of the grades and salaries of District and Sessions Judges on the following basic :—

		Rs.
3	1st-grade District and Sessions Judges on ...	3,000
14	2nd „ „ „ „ „ „ ...	2,500
15	3rd „ „ „ „ „ „ ...	2,000

The Judicial cadre was last re-adjusted on the creation of the new Presidency of Bengal on 1st April 1912, and now contains three 1st-grade, thirteen 2nd-grade and fourteen 3rd-grade Judges.

Non-Regulation districts.

103. The non-Regulation districts under the Governor of Bengal consist of (1) new conquests or cessions to which the regulations were never extended and (2) tracts of country formerly subject to the general regulations, but which were removed from their operation by special enactments. These districts are now known as the " Scheduled districts " under Act XIV of 1874. They consist of the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts and the Hill Tracts of Chittagong.

Regulation X of 1822.

Regulation X of 1822 established the principle that there were races of people within these territories entirely distinct from the ordinary population, to whose circumstances the system of Government established by the general regulations was inapplicable. Such were the mountaineers of Bhagalpur, the Paharia community, for the reclaiming of whom special arrangements were carried out by Augustus Cleveland before the introduction of the regular system. The uncertain and semi-barbarous territory on the north-eastern frontier of Rangpur was de-regulationized under Regulation X of 1822. The existing rules for the administration of civil and criminal justice were suspended, and a Commissioner was appointed with full power to conclude arrangements with the Chiefs, and to conduct the entire administration of the tract under the Governor-General in Council. This law was the germ of the late non-Regulation administration.

Jalpaiguri.

104. In 1866 the northern portion of Rangpur was transferred to the non-Regulation Commissionership of Cooch Behar, which was formed in that year, and eventually was united with the sub-montane country ceded by the Bhutias to form the district of Jalpaiguri. In 1874, on the formation of Assam into a separate administration, the Cooch Behar Division was abolished as a separate charge, and Jalpaiguri was transferred to the Rajshahi Division, of which it still forms a part.

Darjeeling.

105. A part of the hill portion of the district of Darjeeling was ceded by the Raja of Sikkim in 1835. The Morung lowland under the hills and another portion of the hills were taken from him in 1850, in consequence of his having seized and detained in confinement the Superintendent of Darjeeling while travelling peaceably through his country. The portion of the hills known as British Bhutan was ceded by the Bhotias after the Bhutan war in 1865, and annexed to Darjeeling. The district was placed under the charge of an officer called Superintendent, whose designation has since been changed to that of Deputy Commissioner. The Criminal and Civil Procedure Codes were extended to Darjeeling in 1863. The Police administration of the district was conducted under Regulation XX of 1817 until the 25th May 1864, when Act V of 1861 was introduced.

Hill Tracts of Chittagong.

106. The Hill Tracts of Chittagong were removed from the operation of the general regulations by Act XXII of 1860. The excepted tract was placed under an officer called the Superintendent, and a few short rules were

prescribed for his guidance in the administration of civil and criminal justice and the collection of revenue. The only laws in force were Act XXII of 1860, Act IV (B.C) of 1863, and the two Regulations V of 1873 and III of 1881. Owing to the extension of the eastern frontier and the formation of the South Lushai Hills district, the Chittagong Hill Tracts district lost much of its political importance, and it was reduced to the status of a sub-division in charge of an Assistant Commissioner who, for administrative facilities, was made immediately subordinate to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

In 1900 Act XXII of 1860 and the Bengal Act IV of 1863 were repealed by the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation, 1900, and the enactments now in force in those tracts are given in the schedule attached thereto. The Hill Tracts have again been formed into a district, and the old designation of Superintendent has been restored to the officer in charge of them.

Native States.

107. There are two semi-independent States that have direct political relations with the Government of Bengal, viz., Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera.

Cooch Behar.

108. A Commissioner for carrying on the administration of the Cooch Behar State was repeatedly appointed in the last century and the early part of the present century. Finally, in 1863, a Commissioner was appointed during the minority of the Raja. In 1866 Cooch Behar was raised into a non-Regulation Commissionership; and the districts of Darjeeling, from the Bhagalpur Division, and Goalpara and the Garo Hills, which had been under the Assam Division, were placed within the new jurisdiction. At the same time the northern portion of Rangpur was transferred to this division, and eventually was united with the submontane country ceded by the Bhutias, forming the district of Jalpaiguri. In 1868 the judicial administration of the Goalpara district was placed under the Judicial Commissioner of Assam, the administration in other matters remaining with the Divisional Commissioner. In 1874, on the formation of Assam into a separate Administration, the Cooch Behar Division was abolished as a separate charge, and such of its districts as were still attached to the Government of Bengal were transferred to the Rajshahi Division, thenceforward known for some years as the Rajshahi and Cooch Behar Division. In 1883 the Maharaja attained his majority, and the State was released from the direct control of the Commissioner.

The State is now managed by the Maharaja, with the assistance of a Council of which he is the President, and which is composed of the Superintendent of the State, who is Vice-President, the Diwan, who is Resident Member, and the Civil Judge, who is Judicial Member. The Superintendent of the State is usually a Government officer whose services have been placed at the disposal of the State.

In March 1909 a Legislative Council was created composed of the members of the State Council and five additional members representing important interests in the State and appointed by the Maharaja.

Hill Tippera.

109. The Native State of Hill Tippera is, as its name implies, a hilly country, bounded on the north by the district of Sylhet, on the west by the districts of Tippera and Noakhali, on the south by Noakhali and Chittagong, and on the east by the Lushai country and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

On the grant of the Dewani, the East India Company placed a Raja on the *gadi* of the State; and since 1808 each successive ruler has received investiture from the Government, has been required to pay the usual *nazar*, or fine, on succession. In 1870 the position of the Raja was declared by the Government of India to be that of a feudatory, and on the 21st June 1904 a *sanad* was granted to him by the Viceroy, settling the question of succession to the State and its appurtenances. He has, however, no treaty with the British Government, nor does he pay any tribute.

Hill Tippera holds a unique place among the Native States. The Raja is an independent ruler within his own territories, having his own laws and regulations, but he also holds a large zamindari, called *chakla* Roshnabad, situated in the plains of the district of Tippera. This estate, which covers 650 square miles, is by far the most valuable portion of the Raja's possessions and yields a larger revenue than the whole of his kingdom of Hill Tippera. It is held to form with the State what is legally known as an "impartible *raj*,"

and the Raja for the time being is both a British zamindar and a ruling chief. Consequently, whenever the succession was disputed, the question was allowed to be decided by the British courts of law. The latest decision, however, is that the latter have no further jurisdiction than to declare that the ruler selected by the Government for the State is the rightful proprietor of the zamindari. Disputes as to the right of succession have occurred on the occasion of almost every vacancy in the *raj*, the cause being the rule of succession, the origin of which is lost in obscurity.

The administration of both the State and the zamindari has been a frequent source of anxiety to British officials. In 1871 a Political Agent was appointed to reside at Agartala, the Raja's capital, with the object of protecting British interests on the frontier which were in special danger from the Lushai raids, and to advise the Raja; but in 1878, a separate Political Agent being found unnecessary, the Magistrate of the adjoining district of Tippera was appointed *ex-officio* Political Agent of Hill Tippera. Since then some improvements have been effected in the State by the adoption of British methods of administration and of codes framed on British models, and in the zamindari by a survey and settlement under the Bengal Tenancy Act which was concluded in 1899. In 1910 a Resident Political Agent was again appointed.

The present Raja, His Highness Birendra Kishor Dev Barman Manikya, 141st of his line, was confirmed in succession to his father, Raja Radha Kishor Manikya, in 1909, at the age of 27, and was formally installed as Raja by the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam in November 1909.

Government of Bengal.

110. The separation of the Government of Bengal from the Government of India and the United Provinces, and from the administration of Assam, has been already noticed in the course of this narrative; but it will be convenient to recite here more exactly the origin of the present form of government.

Subdivision of Bengal Presidency, 1834.

Governor of Agra.

Governor-General appointed Governor of Bengal.

Deputy Governor of Bengal.

111. The Bengal Presidency was divided into two portions by Act of Parliament in 1834, the titles selected being "Fort William in Bengal" and "Agra." Agra was to be placed under a separate Governor, but the Governor-General of Bengal (created by this same Statute Governor-General of India) was declared to be the Governor of Fort William in Bengal. It was left optional with the Court of Directors either to appoint a Council to assist the newly-created Governor, or to leave the executive government to be administered by such Governor alone; and the Governor or Governors in Council were to "have all the rights, powers, duties, functions, immunities whatsoever, not in anywise repugnant to this Act, which the Governors of Fort St. George and Bombay, in their respective Councils, now have in their respective Presidencies."

The Governor-General was also empowered to appoint a Deputy Governor from among the ordinary Members of his Council, who would be invested with all the powers and perform all the duties of the Government during his absence.

In 1835 another Act was passed, which declared that, whereas much difficulty had arisen in dividing Bengal into two Presidencies, "and the same would be attended with a large increase of charge," the Court of Directors might suspend the execution of so much of the said Act.

Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Provinces, 1836.

112. By section 2 the Governor-General in Council was authorized to "appoint a Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, now under the presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and from time to time declare and limit the extent of the territories so placed under such Lieutenant-Governor, and the extent of the authority to be exercised by such Lieutenant-Governor." This power of suspension was exercised, and on the 29th February 1836 the first Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces was appointed "with the same powers as have, heretofore, been exercised by the Government of Agra."

Appointment of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, 1854.

113. Bengal remained under the Governor-General as Governor, his place during his occasional absence being supplied by a Deputy Governor appointed from among the Members of his Council, till 16 and 17 Vict., Cap. 95, was passed. Section 15 of that Act continued the power vested in the Directors to make Agra a separate Presidency or leave it under a

Lieutenant-Governor; and section 16 empowered them also to declare "that the Governor-General of India shall not be Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, but that a separate Governor shall be appointed, and until such Governor be appointed the Directors may authorise the Governor-General in Council to appoint any servant of the said Company, who shall have been ten years in their service in India, to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, * * and to declare and limit the extent of the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor to be so appointed." The appointment by 21 and 22 Vict., Cap. 106, section 29, was made subject to the approbation of Her Majesty.

On the 12th October 1853 the Court of Directors authorised the appointment of a Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and in Home Department Resolution No. 415 of 28th April following the Hon'ble Mr. F. J. Halliday was appointed first Lieutenant-Governor. Paragraph 7 of this Resolution fixed the territorial jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor, which was to be "co-extensive with the jurisdiction which has, heretofore, been exercised by the Governor of Bengal, with the exception of the Tenasserim Provinces, which, like the adjoining province of Pegu, shall be placed directly under the Governor-General in Council." Paragraph 8 fixed the extent of his authority. It was to "correspond in all respects with the authority that has been exercised by the Lieutenant-Governors of the North-Western Provinces."

Formation of the Chief Commissioner-ship of Assam, 1874.

114. By the year 1874 the province of Bengal had become too unwieldy to be managed by one government, and the inconvenience of governing Assam as an appanage of that province was recognized. Accordingly in that year Assam was separated from Bengal and formed into a separate administration under a Chief Commissioner.

Creation of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1905.

115. For nearly 30 years after the separation of the two provinces, the territorial jurisdiction of Bengal remained unaltered, except for the transfer of the South Lushai Hills to Assam in 1898. But as time went on it began to be felt more and more that Bengal was still too heavy a charge for a single administration. The enormous area included in the province, the growth of the population, the constantly increasing number and complexity of problems pressing for solution, the ever-growing importance of Calcutta, the increasing congestion of business in the Bengal Secretariat, the urgency of new administrative needs and the demands for progess in all directions, all these made increasing calls upon the time and energy of the Lieutenant-Governor, and made it absolutely necessary to grant him some relief. This was effected by a proclamation, dated the 1st of September 1905, issued by the Government of India by which the tracts commonly known as North and East Bengal, comprising the districts of the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Commissionerships, with the exception of Darjeeling, and the addition of Malda, were separated from Bengal and amalgamated with Assam. The whole of the tract was formed into a new Province, known as Eastern Bengal and Assam, and placed under a Lieutenant-Governor, aided by a Legislative Council. At the same time the district of Sambalpur and five Oriya-speaking States were detached from the Central Provinces, of which they had hitherto formed a part and added to the Orissa Division. In return, Bengal handed over to the Central Provinces five Native States which formed a solid block of territory with a Hindi-speaking population.

Creation of an Executive Council for Bengal, 1910.

116. Bengal continued to be governed by a Lieutenant-Governor until 1910 when an Executive Council was created to assist him. The spread of education and the consequent growth of public opinion, combined with the enlargement of the Provincial Legislative Council during the preceding year, had increased the duties and responsibilities of the head of the Province to such an extent that it was difficult for him to cope with them unaided. With the object of lightening the labour of the Lieutenant-Governor as well as of strengthening his authority, without at the same time impairing the prompt exercise of his executive power, the Governor-General in Council was empowered by section 3, sub-section (1) of the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. 7, c. 4), to create an Executive Council in Bengal. The Council was created by a proclamation dated the 18th November 1910. The number of Members was fixed at three or four. Two of the Members were to be persons who had been in the service of the Crown in India for at least twelve

years. The other Member or Members were to be either persons so qualified or persons who had resided in India for at least twelve years. The Lieutenant-Governor was authorized to overrule the Council in cases of high importance, essentially affecting the public interest and welfare. Three Members were appointed and assumed charge of their offices on the 19th November 1910.

Reconstitution of Bengal and appointment of a Governor. 1912.

117. The present form of government dates from the 1st April 1912. The administrative changes were announced on the occasion of the Coronation Durbar at Delhi on the 12th December 1911 by His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, who was pleased to declare that Delhi will become the capital city of India, that a Governor-in-Council will be appointed for Bengal, a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, and a Chief Commissioner for the Province of Assam. A declaration was subsequently published under the East India Company Act, 1853 (16 and 17 Vict., c. 95), and the Government of India Act, 1858 (21 and 22 Vict., c. 106), "that the Governor-General of India shall no longer be Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and that a separate Governor shall be appointed for such Presidency," and by a proclamation it was declared that on and from the 1st of April 1912 the territories subject to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal should consist of the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions along with the district of Darjeeling in Bengal. Baron Carmichael of Skirling assumed charge of the office of Governor on the 1st April 1912.

Form of Administration.

Regulation and Non-Regulation districts.

118. The province is divided into (1) districts subject to the general Regulations and Acts; (2) tracts known as the scheduled districts, to which all the Regulations and Acts do not apply of their own force, but to which they may be extended at the discretion of Government; the only non-regulation districts in the province are the Hill Tracts of Chittagong, and the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

Calcutta.

119. The capital of the province (Calcutta) has, like the other Presidency towns, a special organization of its own. In civil suits above a certain limit as well as in all sessions trials, it is under the original jurisdiction of a branch of the High Court, in which only English and Irish barristers and Scotch advocates can practise. The Small Cause Court of Calcutta is of purely local jurisdiction, and is regulated by a special Act. A separate establishment of police is under the control of a Commissioner, assisted by Deputy Commissioners. Criminal justice is administered by five stipendiary Magistrates of Police, a Municipal Magistrate appointed to try exclusively offences under the Municipal Act, and by Honorary Magistrates. Of the five stipendiary Magistrates, four are permanent and one temporary. The question of making the fifth Magistrate permanent is under the consideration of Government. In revenue matters also, the city forms part of no district, though it is subordinate to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. Customs and Stamps are under the direct superintendence of the Board of Revenue. The system of Municipal administration at present in force in the city will be found described in the paragraph on "Municipalities."

Civil Service.

120. The Public Civil Service was reorganised in accordance with the recommendations made by the Public Service Commission, accepted with certain modifications by the Secretary of State for India in his despatch of the 12th September 1889, and now consists of members of the Indian Civil Service, members of the Provincial Civil Service and members of the Subordinate Civil Service. In addition, there were, on the 31st March 1912, two civilians who had been appointed in India without examination under Statute 33 Vic., chapter 3. These Statutory Civilians, as they are called, will, however, in course of time disappear, as no new appointments will be made under the Statute.

Indian Civil Service.

121. The Indian Civil Service of this province is now, without exception, composed of men who have been selected after open competition in England. Amongst them there were, on the 31st March 1912, fourteen Indian gentlemen. The principal appointments held in Bengal at present by members of the Civil Service of India are two Memberships of the Executive Council, five Judgeships of the High Court, the Membership of the Board of Revenue, the five Commissionerships, the principal Secretariat appointments, the posts of Legal Remembrancer, Inspector-General of Police, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, Commissioner of Excise, Director of Land Records, Director of Agriculture, Collector of Customs, the District and Sessions Judgeships (except five held by statutory civilians and members of the Provincial Service), the District Magistrate-Collectorships (except one held by a member of the Provincial Service) and practically all the Joint-Magistracies and Assistant Magistracies of the interior. Under present arrangements Civilians are called upon at the end of the 12th year of their service to decide whether they elect for the Executive or Judicial branch of the Civil Service, and are posted to the one or the other after due consideration of their wishes and the public interests.

Provincial Civil Service.

122. The Provincial Civil Service, the great majority of whose members are natives of India, consists of two branches, the Judicial and the Executive. The members of the Judicial branch are recruited, under rules framed by the Local Government, on the nomination of the High Court, and are required to be graduates in Law, or to have passed an analogous examination. They hold the posts of Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and of Munsifs. Promotions from the grades of Munsifs to those of Subordinate Judges are made by the Local Government. In 1896 the experiment of appointing three Subordinate Judges to act as Assistant Sessions Judges was tried, and as the system proved a success, it has been continued and extended. The Executive branch consists of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors who are selected by the Local Government under the general control of the Government of India, and include officers promoted from the Subordinate Civil Service. It is divided into seven grades, with pay varying from Rs. 250 to Rs. 800 per month. Both branches of the service have been reorganised from time to time, and their pay and prospects improved. Eight appointments which were formerly reserved for members of the Civil Service of India have now been thrown open to members of the Provincial Civil Service. The principal appointments held permanently on the 31st March 1912 by members of this service included the Inspector-Generalship of Registration, three District and Sessions Judgeships, one post of Magistrate and Collector, and the posts of Municipal Magistrate, Calcutta, and Deputy Collector, Calcutta. In addition, one member of this service was officiating as District and Sessions Judge and three as District or Additional District Magistrates.

Subordinate Civil Service.

123. The service of Sub-Deputy Collectors, which is now called the Subordinate Civil Service, was created in 1873, with the object of improving the internal administration of the districts in Bengal. The status and qualifications of Sub-Deputy Collectors have been considerably raised since 1873, and they are now recruited from practically the same class as the Deputy Magistrates. The service is now composed of 175 Sub-Deputy Collectors, distributed in five grades, who are selected by Government according to rules similar to those in force for the Provincial Civil Service. They are chiefly employed on duties connected with the administration of land revenue, on settlements, cess re-valuations, partitions, collection of rent in Government estates, the superintendence of excise administration, etc. Most of them are also vested with magisterial powers of the 2nd or 3rd class, and take no small share in the judicial work of the districts. To a great extent they are employed as second officers in subdivisions, where they usually hold charge of the treasury.

Executive Administration.

124. As in other parts of India, the unit of administration is the District Magistrate and Collector. As Collector, he supervises the collection of the various branches of the revenue, and is the head of all the departments connected with it; as District Magistrate, he is responsible for the administration of criminal justice in the district, and is vested with certain well-defined original and appellate criminal powers. The district jail, though

placed in the hands of an officer, usually the Civil Surgeon, selected for the duty, is under his general control, while, as head of the police, he exercises a general supervision over the force at his disposal. He is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Board, and as such supervises local education, sanitation and the execution and administration of all local public works. The District Officer is, in fact, the executive chief and administrator of the tract of country committed to his charge, and is assisted in his work by Subordinate Magistrates, who exercise both revenue and magisterial powers, and, in all but the smallest districts, by Subdivisional Magistrates who are usually Joint, Assistant or Deputy Magistrates.

Above the District Magistrates are the Divisional Commissioners. Their duties are principally those of supervision. In almost all matters they exercise a general superintendence, and especially in the Revenue Department they keep a control over the Collectors' proceedings. Commissioners are the channels of communication between the local officers and Government, sifting, collating and bringing together, in a compact form, the information they receive. In certain revenue matters the Commissioners are, in their turn subject to the orders of the Board of Revenue in Calcutta: in other matters they are under the direct control of Government.

The Civil Secretariat consists of the Chief Secretary, who is in charge of the Political and Appointment Departments, the General and Revenue Secretary, the Financial and Municipal Secretary, the Judicial Secretary, three Under-Secretaries and two Assistant Secretaries.

At the head of the administration is the Governor, assisted by an Executive Council of three Members, two of whom are at present officers of the Indian Civil Service and one an Indian gentleman. The Governor is authorized to overrule the Council in cases of high importance, essentially affecting the public interest and welfare.

Financial Administration.

125. The old system of quinquennial settlements in vogue since 1877 between the Government of India and the Local Government was replaced by a *quasi*-permanent settlement with effect from April 1904. Consequent on the constitution of a new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in October 1905, an alteration in the settlement was made with effect from the 1st April 1906. Again on the reconstitution of the provinces on the 1st April 1912, a new temporary settlement has been made for a period of three years. Under the terms of the new settlement Rs. 5,43,78,000 has been adopted as the settlement figure of expenditure and Rs. 5,51,06,000 as the standard of receipts, and the difference, Rs. 7,28,000, is to be taken as a fixed assignment from Provincial to Imperial Revenues. Under the settlement the Provincial Revenues now take the whole of the collections from Government estates, half the remaining Land Revenue, with the exception of the recoveries of the cost of Survey and Settlement operations which are wholly Imperial, and one-half of the revenues from Stamps, Assessed Taxes and Major and Minor Irrigation Works. The receipts and charges of the Excise and Forest Departments have been made wholly Provincial. On the expenditure side the Provincial Government bears the same shares of the charges for Refunds and Assignments and Compensation as in the corresponding heads of receipts. The expenditure under Stamps and Assessed Taxes and Irrigation Department is also divided in equal proportions, but the charges of the other Departments including Excise and Forests are now wholly Provincial.

Revenue Administration.

126. The unit of revenue administration is the District Collector, who is controlled by the Divisional Commissioner, and in respect of excise and salt by the Commissioner of Excise and Salt. Formerly these officers were all subject to the orders of the Board of Revenue, which consisted of two members, each of whom was in independent charge of the departments assigned to him. Consequent on the creation of an Executive Council for the Province of Bengal in 1910, the Board was placed temporarily in charge of one member, and its ultimate abolition was contemplated. It has since been decided by the Secretary of State to retain permanently a Board of one member with one Secretary. This has necessitated a redistribution of the Board's functions so as to bring the work within the scope of a single member. According to the present distribution, which is, however, only

tentative, the Board, in addition to its statutory functions as a court of appeal and revision, retains the administrative control of the following departments :—

Wards.	Land Registration.
Government Estates.	Certificate Procedure.
Tauzi and Accounts.	Revenue Sales.
Road and Public Works Cess.	Partition.

Miscellaneous (minor matters, such as Escheats, etc.).

The remaining branches of revenue administration are now controlled directly by Government.

The main sources of revenue in Bengal are the land revenue, the excise on spirits and drugs, the Customs duties, stamps, salt, income-tax and the public works cess. Of these, land revenue, excise, stamps and income-tax are managed by the District Collector and his establishments. The Indian Income-tax Act was amended by Act XI of 1903, under which the minimum net income liable to assessment was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per annum. The administration of the salt revenue in certain districts in which the Indian Salt Act is in force is under a special department ; elsewhere it is managed by the Collector of the district. In 1907 the duty on salt was reduced to one rupee per maund. The public works cess is levied conjointly with the road cess by the District Collector by means of an establishment which is paid for partly from Provincial Revenues and partly from Local Funds. Customs revenue is under a special department. Opium is not grown in the Presidency as now constituted ; but Calcutta is a depôt for the distribution of excise opium, and for the sale and export of provision opium. This work was formerly supervised by the Board, but is now under the direct control of the Local Government.

At the head of the Calcutta Customs House is a special Collector who is aided by a number of Assistant Collectors and Preventive Officers. An Imperial Customs Service was constituted in 1905, and the Collector and most of his Assistant Collectors belong to it. On the 10th March 1894 the Customs import duties, which had been abolished (except on arms, ammunition, liquors, opium and salt) were for the most part re-imposed, the most important exceptions being cotton-yarn and piece-goods which were exempted from duty. On the 27th December 1894 imported cotton goods were, however, made dutiable, and a countervailing excise duty was imposed on some classes of cotton goods manufactured in India. A further change was introduced on the 3rd February 1896, when twist and yarn were made free, and the import duty on cotton piece-goods was reduced from 5 to 3½ per cent. A special import duty on sugar was imposed by Act VIII of 1902, and this Act was revised by Act XI of 1904. The duty (generally one anna per Imperial gallon), which had been imposed on petroleum in the year 1888, was raised by Act VIII of 1910 to one anna and six pies per Imperial gallon. The duty on tobacco, silver bullion or coin was also changed from the previous *ad-valorem* rate to a quantitative rate. The rates of duty on liquors were increased by Acts I of 1906, II of 1908 and VIII of 1910. By Act IX of 1903 a tea cess of one-quarter of an anna per pound was imposed on all tea produced in and exported from India. The proceeds of this cess do not form an item of Customs revenue, but are handed over to the Tea Cess Committee constituted by the Act for the purpose of promoting the interests of the tea industry in India. Similarly, under the Calcutta Improvement Act [Act V (B.C.) of 1911] a jute cess (to be utilised in defraying the cost of the improvement scheme carried out under the Act) was imposed on jute exported from Calcutta. This cess is collected by the Customs Department and handed over to the Board of Trustees constituted under the Act.

The port next in importance to Calcutta is Chittagong, where the work in connection with the Customs Department is carried on by a special officer under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Division who is the local Chief Customs Officer.

Department of Public Works.

127. The Public Works Department deals with matters connected with Roads and Buildings, Railways, Waterways, Miscellaneous Public

Improvements, Irrigation, Marine, Establishment and miscellaneous subjects connected with public works. The department is controlled by a Member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal.

On the re-adjustment of provincial boundaries in 1912, the Public Works Department of this province was practically transformed. Almost all the irrigation works in old Bengal, and two of the three canal revenue divisions, were transferred to the new province of Bihar and Orissa, and with them the Irrigation Chief Engineer and Secretary. In his place a Superintending Engineer at the Presidency was appointed Deputy Secretary to advise Government in irrigation matters, including waterways, in addition to his own duties as a Superintending Engineer. The other work which the Irrigation Chief Engineer used to do in connection with Marine, Railways, Miscellaneous Public Improvements, Establishment and miscellaneous subjects was made over to the Public Works Chief Engineer and Secretary, in addition to his own branches. The appointment of a second Chief Engineer to take over this work and the duties of the Deputy Secretary is under consideration.

The Public Works establishment at present consists of one Chief Engineer, who is also Secretary to Government, one Deputy Secretary who is also Superintending Engineer of a Public Works Circle, two Under-Secretaries, one Assistant Secretary, five Superintending Engineers, 42 Executive and Assistant Engineers (including the two Under-Secretaries), 210 Upper and Lower subordinates, and the following special appointments which were created after 1905 :—

(*a*) A Sanitary Engineer.
(*b*) An Electrical Engineer.
(*c*) An Electrical Inspector.
(*d*) A Junior Electrical Inspector.
(*e*) A Consulting Architect.
(*f*) A Plumbing Expert.

Superintending Engineers are the professional advisers of Commissioners of Divisions and District Boards.

The following are the Public Works Circles in Bengal as arranged since the close of 1911-1912 :—

(1) The Presidency Circle, which comprises the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Calcutta Divisions, the Electrical Division, and local works in the districts of Howrah and 24-Parganas.
(2) The Northern Circle, which comprises the Darjeeling, Rajshahi and Jalpaiguri Divisions, and local works in the district of the Rajshahi Commissionership.
(3) The Eastern Circle, which comprises the Dacca, Chittagong and Backergunge Divisions, and local works in the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Commissionerships.
(4) The South-Western Circle, which comprises the Circular and Eastern Canals, the Northern Drainage and Embankment, the Cossye and the Midnapore Canal Revenue Divisions, and local works in the district of Midnapore.
(5) The Central Circle, which is new, and comprises the Burdwan Division with all Imperial and Provincial civil buildings in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly and Jessore, the Jessore Drainage and Nadia Rivers Divisions, and local works in the districts of the Presidency and Burdwan Commissionerships.

Communications.

128. In Bengal the roads forming main lines of communication are classed partly as Provincial and partly as District Roads. Provincial roads are maintained from Provincial Funds ; they are in charge generally of the Public Works Department, and in some cases are under the District Engineers. The District roads are maintained chiefly from Local Funds and are under the control of the District Boards. Some assistance is given to the District Funds from Provincial Revenues for the construction of new roads ; more especially to enable the District Boards to construct roads required as

feeders to the railway lines. Minor roads are classed as Municipal, Local Fund, and Military or Cantonment Roads.

Railways.

129. All the important railways are now under the direct control of the Government of India. The following small lines of local importance are, subject to the provisions of the Indian Railway Act, IX of 1890, under the control of the Government of Bengal :—

	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalyan Railway	51·00
(2) Tarakeswar-Magra Railway	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway	19·75
(5) Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway	51·12

Irrigation Department.

130. The major irrigation works in Bengal are the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. These works comprise 98¾ miles of main and branch canals, of which 69¾ miles provide for both irrigation and navigation and 29 miles (the Hijili Tidal Canal) for navigation only. There are in addition 254½ miles of distributaries. The area irrigated is about 70.000 acres and the capital outlay on these works up to the end of March 1912 amounted to over Rs. 111 lakhs. The Midnapore Canal system is under the control of the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, assisted by an Executive Engineer who is responsible for the maintenance of the canal and the conduct of irrigation operations. There is a separate establishment known as the Revenue Division for the collection of irrigation revenue. The Division is in charge of a Circle Officer who is responsible for the assessment and collection of water-rates. The principal crop for which irrigation is utilized is rice; occasionally *bôro* rice is irrigated in the winter season when the principal rice crop has failed. Various systems of leases for the supply of water are in force. Most of the leases are granted for a term of seven years at an annual rate of Rs. 2 per acre. The irrigated area is divided into blocks, the leases of all lands in each block being arranged to lapse in the same year. Under the forms of irrigation lease in use no specific supply of water is promised, but the undertaking is to give such a supply to each lessee as may be necessary for the lands leased. Water is supplied by rotation, whenever this is considered advisable for the efficient working of the canal.

Irrigation is also carried on to a certain extent from the Eden Canal which lies partly in the district of Hooghly and partly in the district of Burdwan. This canal, which was originally constructed for sanitary reasons, irrigates an area of about 24,000 acres. An Executive Engineer under the control of the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, is in charge of the canal, and is responsible for its maintenance and the conduct of irrigation operations. There is, however, no separate establishment for the collection of irrigation revenue. Water-rates are realised by the Sectional Canal Officers, who also carry out the duties of zilladars under the control of the Executive Engineer.

The principal navigation works maintained are—(1) the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, including Tolly's Nulla, and the Sundarbans steamer route, (2) the Madaripur Bil Channel; and (3) the Nadia Rivers. The Calcutta and Eastern Canals are a series of navigable channels, mostly natural but partly artificial, by which communication is maintained between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal through the Sundarbans. The Madaripur Bil Channel connects the Madhumati and Kumar Rivers. The first two are in charge of an Executive Engineer who is *ex-officio* the Supervisor of these channels and the Collector of tolls. The Executive Engineer at Berhampur is *ex-officio* the Supervisor of the Nadia Rivers and the Collector of tolls.

The principal drainage works are the Dankuni, Howrah and Rajapur drainage projects, which were carried out under the provisions of the old Drainage Act V (B.C.) of 1871 and the Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880. The maintenance charges of all these works were capitalized and included in the capital cost of the projects payable by the persons benefited. As a result, the responsibility of maintaining these works in perpetuity rests upon Government. The Dankuni and Rajapur Drainage works are also used as navigable channels under the provisions of the Bengal Canals Act V of 1864

and tolls are levied. The Magra Hât Drainage scheme, which provides for the improvement of the sanitary and agricultural condition of a tract of 290 square miles in the Diamond Harbour subdivision of the 24-Parganas, is being carried out at an estimated cost of Rs. 21 lakhs under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895, and is nearing completion. Government has contributed five lakhs towards the cost, and has undertaken the maintenance charges in return for any income derivable from the scheme, including tolls to be levied on the drainage channels under the Canals Act.

Besides the irrigation, navigation and drainage works, Government maintains about 1,356 miles of embankments which protect an area of 3,786,124 acres from floods.

In June 1906 a standing committee was appointed to inspect periodically the natural and artificial waterways between Calcutta and Eastern Bengal, and to suggest measures of improvement. In order that the usefulness of the committee might be enhanced, additional members, consisting chiefly of mercantile representatives, were appointed in July 1911. This committee met several times and did useful work, but, with the reconstitution of the province of Bengal from 1st of April 1912, it became necessary to enlarge the scope of the committee, the whole area of the delta of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra having been brought again under one administration. A new committee has now been appointed, upon which all the chief mercantile interests are represented.

Marine Department.

131. The Marine Department has been under the control of the Public Works Department of the Secretariat since February 1888. The Port Officer of Calcutta is its principal executive officer. He discharges the duties of Shipping Master, Calcutta, controls the Bengal Pilot Service, and is mainly responsible for the working of the Merchant Shipping Acts. He also periodically visits and reports on out-ports, and is generally referred to by Government on marine matters. Owing to the great increase of the work entailed by the rapid increase of trade in the port, a Deputy Port Officer was appointed in 1909. The work connected with the shipment and discharge of native seamen in the Shipping Office at Calcutta increased to such an extent, that a Branch Shipping Office had to be opened at Kidderpore in 1904 under an Assistant Shipping Master. To accelerate the supply of Pilots at the Sandheads, the pilot brigs have been replaced by two steam pilot cruisers. The management of the affairs of the Port of Calcutta and its approaches is vested in the Port Commissioners, who are also Conservators of the Port. During the last ten years the income of the Trust has increased considerably owing to the expansion of trade. To afford facilities to shipping, a second dry dock, large warehouses at the jetties and special warehouses for tea have been constructed, and a suction dredger has been purchased to improve the bars of the river. Sanction to the purchase of a second dredger has lately been given. In 1903 a Commission was appointed, under the orders of the Government of India, to consider and report on the question of the establishment of a depôt for the export of coal at Luff Point. The conclusions arrived at were that additional facilities were not at present required, as the Port Commissioners could provide ample accommodation at the docks for the trade of the port, including the export of coal but that if at any time an auxiliary port on the Hooghly were necessary, it should be under the control of the Port Commissioners, as the formation of a depôt under any other agency would be prejudicial to the interests of the general trade of the port. In 1903 the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, was amended so as to empower the Port Commissioners to establish steamer ferries on the Hooghly. Steamer ferries have been established and are greatly appreciated by the public. In 1906-07 the Government of India approved of a scheme to provide for the eventual wants of the expanding trade of the Port of Calcutta. The Port Commissioners, Calcutta, are also the Bridge Commissioners under the Howrah Bridge Act, 1871, and the Howrah Bridge is maintained by them in an efficient manner. The construction of a new bridge over the Hooghly between Howrah and Calcutta is under consideration.

The Port of Chittagong and the Chittagong Port Trust Fund are entrusted to the Port Commissioners of that place. The financial condition

of the port is not at present satisfactory, and the Port Fund has to be supplemented from time to time by large grants-in-aid from Imperial and Provincial Revenues. The revenues of the port have, however, been expanding steadily during the past few years, and it is hoped that the extension of railway communication to the port, which is now under the consideration of Government, will help still further to increase them. The question of improving the status of the Port of Chittagong is under the consideration of the Port Commissioners and of Government. The levy and collection of a Customs duty on jute exported by sea has been authorized at the maximum rates provided by law. Government has also sanctioned a further and special grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs for revetment and maintenance of the dredger during 1912-13.

The administrative control of the office of the Agent for Government Consignments was transferred to this Government by the Army Department of the Government of India in April 1909, subject to an assignment of Rs. 16,000 annually to the Government of India. Under the new Provincial Settlement this assignment has been cancelled.

The Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act, 1905, was passed on the 23rd March 1905 with the object of securing the abatement of smoke-nuisance in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs and in Howrah. Power has also been taken to extend the Act to other areas in Bengal. Shortly after the passing of the Act, a Commission was appointed to carry out the objects of the Act, and rules framed by the Commission under section 10 of the Act have been promulgated. The control of the working of the Commission was vested in the Marine Department. The nuisance in Calcutta and its suburbs and in Howrah has diminished considerably, and rule 23 of the rules has been recently amended with a view to reduce the density of the smoke, the emission of which is permitted under the Act. The Act has also been extended so as to include the whole of the Tollygunge, Garden Reach and South Suburban Municipalities.

The control of the Boiler Fund was transferred from the Judicial to the Marine Department in the year 1904-1905. Since then the Act has been extended to the district of Murshidabad and the Municipalities of Jamalpur and Chandpur. The question of extending the Act to the districts in which it is not yet in force is under the consideration of Government. Owing to the increase in the number of boilers to be inspected caused by this extension of the Act, two more Boiler Inspectors have been appointed.

Medical Department.

132. The Medical Department is managed by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals who, though appointed by the Government of India, is under the orders of the Provincial Government. The medical staff consists of Civil Surgeons, the majority of whom belong to the Indian Medical Service, Civil Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons. There are lunatic asylums at Berhampore, Bhawanipur and Dacca, and the Gobra Asylum in Calcutta for lepers.

Sanitation and Vaccination Departments.

133. The Sanitation and Vaccination Departments are directed by the Sanitary Commissioner, who is under the orders of the Provincial Government. The orders limiting the tenure of the office of the Sanitary Commissioner to seven years have been withdrawn. In 1896 the offices of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and the Sanitary Commissioner were amalgamated, and the Sanitary Commissioner who was subordinate to the Inspector-General was given the additional title of Deputy Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. Since 1905 the offices have been separated, and they are under the independent charge of their respective heads. In the Sanitary Department there are Deputy Sanitary Commissioners acting under the orders of Sanitary Commissioner. The Local Government has recently been allowed the selection of these officers under certain conditions, the selection being no longer restricted to the Indian Medical Service. The number of such officers in Bengal was three before the creation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1905, after which the number was reduced to two. A Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner was appointed in 1910 to undertake systematic investigation and research on the subject of malaria. On the reconstitution of the Presidency in April 1912 the services of a second officer on similar duty in Eastern Bengal and Assam were transferred to the Government of Bengal. Steps are being taken to give effect to the scheme

recently sanctioned by the Government of India for the improvement of the sanitary services by the appointment of Sanitary Inspectors and Health Officers in municipal towns, and additional Deputy Sanitary Commissioners.

Sanitary Board.

134. In 1890 a Sanitary Board was first constituted in Bengal, consisting of the Junior Member of the Board of Revenue as President, the Chief Engineer in the Irrigation Department and the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal as members. The Sanitary Commissioner was also the Board's Secretary and Executive agent. An Engineer to the Board was appointed temporarily, and his duties were to accompany the Sanitary Commissioner on tour and advise him on engineering matters. In 1894 the Engineer to the Board was appointed permanently to be Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, and *ex-officio* Secretary to the Sanitary Board. His duties are to advise Government, the Sanitary Board and all Municipal and local authorities on projects and designs of sanitation, and, if required, to draw up such projects. Revised rules regulating the duties of the Sanitary Engineer and the Secretary to the Sanitary Board have recently been framed. In 1896 the Chief Engineer in the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department joined the Board. The Sanitary Board was last reconstituted in 1908. The appointment of an Assistant Sanitary Engineer was sanctioned in 1906 for a period of five years and a selected Upper Subordinate of the Public Works Department was deputed in 1909 to work as Personal Assistant to the Sanitary Engineer, till the termination of the period of the Assistant Sanitary Engineer's appointment. The terms of both the appointments, which expired in May 1911, have been extended for a period of five years, and proposals for the appointment of an Additional Assistant Engineer from England are now under consideration. The annual reports show that much useful work has been done by the Sanitary Board.

Provincial Malaria Committee.

135. At the suggestion of the Malaria Conference held at Simla in October 1909, a Provincial Malaria Committee was constituted in 1910, with a view to the systematic examination of problems connected with the prevalence of malaria. (The committee, which was reconstituted in June 1912, consists of eight members, the Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Bengal in the Municipal (Sanitation) Department being President, and the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, Member and Secretary. The two Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioners engaged on investigation into malaria are also members of the committee.)

Police.

136. The Police Department is supervised by an Inspector-General, who is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service. Under him there are Deputy Inspectors-General, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and a large staff of subordinate officers. Steady progress has been made since 1905-1906 in giving effect to the reforms recommended by the Police Commission. The Police force of the province comprises the Military, District, Railway and River Police. The Military Police form an armed reserve to deal with serious and organised disturbances that may arise. The Railway Police are directly under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Crimes and Railways, with a Superintendent of Police for each of the principal railway systems. An elaborate scheme for extending the operations of the River Police and increasing its strength has been sanctioned and is being carried out gradually. The Criminal Investigation Department is especially concerned with professional and political crime. To the District Police is entrusted the detection of ordinary crime and the maintenance of law and order. In some towns in East and West Bengal the work of watch and ward is still performed by town chaukidars who in theory are only night watchmen, but in practice do a certain amount of day work but these town chaukidars have now nearly all been replaced by constables of the regular police force. In each district the police are in charge of a Superintendent, and the districts are grouped into ranges, each under the direct control of a Deputy Inspector-General. Outside the regular police are the Rural Police—chaukidars and dafadars who are responsible for reporting to the police the occurrence of crime and births and deaths within their villages, and assist in the prevention and detection of crime generally. They are paid a small monthly salary, which is collected from the villagers by the panchayat.

Land Records.

137. The chief function of the Director of Land Records is the supervision of survey and settlement operations.

Agriculture.

138. The Department of Agriculture was separated from that of Land Records in 1906, when a Director of Agriculture was appointed. Since then the former has developed rapidly. Experimental and demonstration farms have been established in various places, a staff of experts has been appointed, and the organization of an Agricultural Service is being undertaken. The department distributes seeds, manures and agricultural implements, arranges schemes of agricultural education, and affords district agricultural associations financial assistance and expert advice. The preparation of the weekly weather and crop statistics and rainfall statistics has been made over to this department.

Fisheries.

139. Enquiries into the fisheries of Bengal were first made by Mr. Gupta, now Sir Krishna Gobind Gupta, and his report was published in 1908. In the same year a Fisheries Board was formed, and Mr. A. Ahmad, C.S., was appointed Commissioner of Fisheries. During his administration, Dr. J. T. Jenkins of the Lancashire Sea Fisheries Company was appointed temporarily as Scientific Adviser to the Government of Bengal in fishery matters. In 1910 a permanent Fishery Department was organized under the control of the Director of Agriculture. The present staff consists of the Director, a European scientific assistant styled the Deputy Director of Fisheries and two Superintendents of Fisheries, one of whom has studied carp-culture in England and in Europe and the other shad-culture in America.

Civil Veterinary Department.

140. The department is controlled by a Superintendent, assisted by a staff of Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and Veterinary Assistants. The formation of a Provincial Veterinary Service has been sanctioned, and the inspecting staff has been considerably strengthened in recent years. It is hoped that eventually the province will be equipped with one itinerant veterinary assistant in each subdivision and one veterinary dispensary at each district and subdivisional head-quarters.

Co-operative Societies.

141. The Department of Co-operative Societies was constituted in October 1904, and is controlled by a Registrar, who is assisted by a Personal Assistant from the Provincial Executive Service, 4 Sub-Deputy Collectors and 3 Inspectors. The department has not only to audit the accounts of the societies and inspect them, but also to familiarise the people with the principles of co-operation and to assist them in organising new societies. On the 31st March 1912 there were 805 rural societies with unlimited liability, 58 urban societies with limited liability, 7 central banks, or 870 in all with a membership of about 31,000 and a working capital of Rs. 26,00,000. As institutions for furnishing cheap credit, the advantages of the societies are now thoroughly appreciated, and there are also indications that they are influencing the members in directions other than those which are purely economic. As the movement cannot make any permanent progress and produce any lasting impression on the country until it has been firmly established on a popular basis, continuous attention has been directed towards the enlisting of non-official help in the work of organising and supervising societies. In this direction there has also been satisfactory progress, and there were ten honorary organisers on the 31st March—men of local influence and position who organise societies in their neighbourhood and look after them.

Jails.

142. There are six central jails, one juvenile jail, and 23 district jails in the province. All the central jails, except Rampur-Boalia, are managed by whole-time Superintendents, and the district jails by the chief medical officers of the districts. The control of the whole department is vested in the Inspector-General of Prisons.

Registration.

143. The Department of Registration is supervised by an Inspector-General. All District Officers are *ex-officio* Registrars within their districts and have a large staff of Sub-Registrars.

Excise and Salt.

144. The Department of Excise and Salt is controlled by a Commissioner, with a suitable staff of assistants, under the general direction of Government.

Education.

145. The Education Department is presided over by an officer styled the Director of Public Instruction : the working of the department is fully explained in the chapter " General System of Public Instruction."

Forests.

146. For the purposes of forest administration the province is divided into eight divisions, under the general superintendence of the Conservator of Forests.

Administrative staff.

147. The following is a list of the principal officers who were employed on the 31st March 1912 in the executive administration of the country, in the administration of justice, in the ordinary duties connected with the collection of the revenue, and in the chief offices in the Police, Customs, Education, Registration and other departments :—

Officers at the Presidency.

Lieutenant-Governor	1
Lieutenant-Governor's personal staff	9
Members of Council	3
Secretaries, Under-Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries to Government	14
Registrars, Bengal Secretariat	4
Lord Bishop of Calcutta	1
Archdeacon of Calcutta	1
Judges of the High Court	19
Registrars of the High Court	2
Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs ...	1
Deputy Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs	1
Judges of the Small Cause Court and Registrar ...	6
Presidency Magistrates	5
Municipal Magistrate	1
Member of the Board of Revenue	1
Secretaries to the Board of Revenue	2
Commissioner of Excise	1
Director of Land Records	1
Director of Agriculture	1
Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies	1
Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department ...	1
Collector of Customs	1
Accountant-General, Deputy and Assistant Accountants-General	9
Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal ...	1
Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sibpur	1
Meteorologist	1
Port Officer and *ex-officio* Shipping Master, Calcutta	1
Health Officer, Port of Calcutta	1
Inspector-General of Registration	1
First Inspector of Registration Offices	1
District Registrar of Calcutta	1
Deputy Collector of Land Revenue, Calcutta, and Superintendent of Excise Revenue	1
Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta	1
Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta	1
Deputy Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta ...	1
Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta	1
Inspector-General of Police	1
Deputy Inspectors-General of Police	2
Commissioner of Police, Calcutta	1
Deputy Commissioners of Police, Calcutta ...	5
Assistant Commissioner of Police, Calcutta ...	1
Inspector-General of Prisons	1
Superintendent of the Alipore Jail and *ex-officio* Deputy Inspector-General of Prisons	1
Superintendent of the Presidency Jail	1
Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal ...	1
Principal, Professors and Resident Physicians and Surgeons, Medical College	18
Surgeon-Superintendent, Presidency General Hospital, and Resident Surgeons	3
Sanitary Commissioner	1
Deputy Sanitary Commissioners	2
Superintending and Executive Engineers ...	8
Sanitary Engineer	1
Chemical Examiner	1
Coroner of Calcutta	1

Protector of Emigrants and Superintendent of Emigration	1
Director and Assistant Director of Public Instruction	2
Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions	1
Inspectors, Additional and Assistant Inspectors of Schools	9
Inspectress of Schools	1
Principals and Professors of the Presidency College, Sanskrit College and Madrasah	46
Principal and Vice-Principal, Government School of Art	2
Bengali and Urdu and Hindi Translators to Government	2
Chief Inspector of Factories	1
Consulting Architect	1

Officers outside Calcutta.

Commissioners of Divisions	5
District and Sessions Judges	27
Magistrates and Collectors, 1st grade	12
Ditto, 2nd „	13
Ditto, 3rd „	15
Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, 1st grade ...	17
Ditto ditto, 2nd „ ...	17
Assistant Magistrates	48
Cantonment Magistrate	1
Deputy Inspectors-General of Police	3
Superintendents of Police	45
Assistant ditto	46
Deputy ditto	26
Civil Surgeons	28
Superintendents of Central Jails	6
Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors ...	299
Sub-Deputy Collectors	175
Subordinate Judges and Judges of Small Cause Courts	38
Munsifs	171
Inspectors of Registration Offices	2
District Sub-Registrars	27
Sub-Registrars	229
Sub-Registrars (paid by commission)	16
Conservator of Forests	1
Deputy Conservators, Assistant Conservators and Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests ...	25

148. The existing judicial organization of the Presidency consisted on the 31st March 1912 of— **Judicial organization.**

High Court Judges	19
District and Sessions Judges including one post of Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs	28

The functions of these officers are exclusively judicial, and include both civil and criminal jurisdiction. The Chief Justice and five of the Puisne Judges of the High Court are English Barristers. Six of the Judges are Indian gentlemen, of whom three were barristers and three were distinguished pleaders of the Court. The rest are members of the Civil Service of India. Of the High Court Judges, four are Additional Judges appointed for a period of two years.

149. Criminal justice is administered by the High Court, the Courts of Session, and the Courts of the various classes of Magistrates. The High Court on its Original side tries by a single Judge, with a jury, all cases committed to it by the Presidency Magistrates, and also certain cases in which the accused are European British subjects, which may be committed for trial by Magistrates in the interior. On its Appellate side, the High Court, by a bench of two or more Judges, disposes of appeals in respect of convictions on trials before a Court of Session. It revises of its own motion and upon reference from Sessions Judges or Magistrates the decisions of inferior courts, when in error upon points of law, and it confirms, modifies or annuls all sentences of death passed by Sessions Courts in the interior. The High Court also sits as a Special Bench to try cases committed to it under **Criminal Administration.**

the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, XIV of 1908. The Courts of Session are presided over by a single Judge, who tries, with the aid either of a jury or assessors, all cases committed by Magistrates empowered to that end, and decides, sitting alone, all appeals from the decisions of Magistrates of the first class when the sentence exceeds one month's imprisonment or 50 rupees fine. The powers of a Sessions Judge are limited only by the amount of punishment which may be inflicted for the offence under the Penal Code, except that sentences of death are passed subject to confirmation by the High Court. The powers of a Magistrate of the first class extend to sentencing offenders to imprisonment, either rigorous or simple, up to two years, including solitary confinement; to fine to the extent of Rs. 1,000, or imprisonment and fine combined; also to whipping as a separate or additional punishment for certain offences. The Magistrate of the district always exercises first class powers, and he also hears appeals from the Magistrates of the second and third class within the district. Any Magistrate of the first class, duly empowered by the Local Government, can similarly hear and decide all such appeals. A Magistrate of the second class can award imprisonment up to six months, fine up to Rs. 200, or both, and also whipping as the sole or as an additional punishment, if specially empowered by the Local Government. A Magistrate of the third class can only imprison up to one month, or fine up to Rs. 50, or combine these punishments. Honorary Magistrates, sitting singly, and Benches of Magistrates, consisting of two or more Magistrates sitting together, have now been appointed at almost all the head-quarters stations and at most of the subdivisional stations in Bengal. Their powers vary in different localities. Under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, Honorary Magistrates are ordinarily appointed for a term of three years, which is, however, renewable on the recommendation of the local officers.

Civil Administration.

150. In respect of civil justice, the High Court of Calcutta exercises an appellate, a legal and equitable, an ecclesiastical, an admiralty and a bankruptcy jurisdiction. The functions which in England used to be divided among different courts are here exercised in one court and by the same Judges. Below the High Court are the District and Additional Judges, the Small Cause Court and Subordinate Judges, and the Munsifs. Of these officers, the District and Additional Judges and a small number of Subordinate Judges, when appointed Assistant Sessions Judges, also exercise the powers of a Criminal Court; the remainder are purely Civil Judges.

The jurisdiction of a District Judge or Subordinate Judge extends to all original suits cognizable by the Civil Courts. It does not, however, include the powers of a Small Cause Court, unless these be specially conferred. The ordinary jurisdiction of a Munsif extends to all like suits in which the amount or value of the subject-matter in dispute does not exceed one thousand rupees, though the limit may be extended up to suits the value of which do not exceed two thousand rupees. An appeal lies from the High Court to the Privy Council in England, if the value or amount of the subject-matter exceeds ten thousand rupees. Appeals from the decrees and orders of District and Additional Judges lie to the High Court. Appeals from Subordinate Judges and Munsifs lie to the District Judge, except when the value of the subject-matter exceeds five thousand rupees, when the appeal lies to the High Court. The High Court, with the sanction of the Local Governm ent, may also direct, by notification in the Gazette, that appeals from the orders of any Munsif shall lie to the Court of the Subordinate Judge, but no such notification has been issued by the High Court. Ordinarily, the Subordinate Judges hear such appeals from the decisions of Munsifs as are transferred to them by the District Judge. The powers of Courts of Small Causes are regulated by Act IX of 1887 (as subsequently modified): subject to certain exceptions, their jurisdiction extends to all suits of a civil nature of which the value does not exceed five hundred rupees, a limit which may be increased to one thousand rupees by an order of the Local Government, with respect to any specified court. The Local Government is empowered under Act XII of 1887 to invest Subordinate Judges and Munsifs with the powers of a Judge of a Small Cause Court for the trial of cases not exceeding five hundred rupees in value in the case of Subordinate Judges, and two hundred and fifty rupees in the case of Munsifs. Under Act IX of 1887, the Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in

Council, establish a Court of Small Causes at any place in the province beyond the local limits of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court. On the 31st March 1912, besides the regular Small Cause Courts which have been established at Sealdah, Howrah, Serampore, Dacca and Munshiganj, there were 133 Munsifs invested with this power.

Municipalities in the interior

151. Bengal Act III of 1884, which regulates the constitution, powers and proceedings of Municipal bodies in the Presidency (except Calcutta), has been amended by Bengal Acts IV of 1894 and II of 1896. By these enactments the elective franchise has been further extended, and the powers and responsibilities of Commissioners of Municipalities have been enhanced. The scope of Municipal expenditure has been extended and now provides for the establishment and maintenance of veterinary institutions and the training of the requisite staff, the improvement of breeds of cattle, the training and employment of female medical practitioners, the promotion of physical culture, and the establishment and maintenance of free libraries. The Commissioners may order a survey, and organise a fire-brigade; they may control the water-supply when its purity is suspected, even to the extent of interference with private rights; larger powers of precaution are conferred in the case of ruined and dangerous houses and other erections, as well as increased optional powers for the general regulation of new buildings.

The total number of municipalities at present in existence is 111, of which three were established during the last decade. Of these only two are new municipalities; the other has been formed by the subdivision of a municipality previously existing. The rate-payers of 94 municipalities have been granted the privilege of electing two-thirds of the number of Commissioners fixed in each case. In 86 municipalities the Commissioners are authorized to elect their own Chairman. In the remaining towns, Government has reserved to itself the power of appointing the Commissioners or Chairman as the case may be, owing either to the backwardness of the place or to the existence of strong party feeling or to the necessity of holding the balance between contending interests. Only in 12 towns, however, does Government exercise complete control in the appointment of both Commissioners and Chairman. The Municipal system has been most developed in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions where no less than 74 municipalities are situated.

Calcutta Municipality.

152. The system of Municipal Government in Calcutta is regulated by Bengal Act III of 1899, which repealed Bengal Act II of 1888. Abandoning the policy followed in the previous Acts of vesting the entire Municipal Government of the city in the Commissioners with permission to the Chairman to exercise such powers as were not expressly reserved to the Commissioners in meeting, and subject to such conditions as the Commissioners may lay down, the Act created three co-ordinate Municipal authorities, viz., the Corporation, the General Committee, and the Chairman, and distributed between them the functions most appropriate to each. The entire executive power is vested in the Chairman to be exercised independently, or subject to the approval or sanction of the Corporation or General Committee, wherever this is expressly so directed. To the Corporation are reserved the right of fixing the rates of taxation and all those general functions which can be efficiently performed by a large body, provision being at the same time made against the contingency of their deliberations impeding the transaction of business. The General Committee stands between the deliberative and the executive authorities, and deals with those matters which by their nature are ill-adapted for discussion by the Corporation and yet are too important to be left to the disposal of the Chairman alone. The total number of Commissioners was reduced to 50, of whom 25 are elected at the ward elections and the rest appointed by Government, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Calcutta Trades Association and the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. The General Committee consists of 12 Commissioners, one-third of whom are elected by the Ward Commissioners, an equal proportion by the appointed Commissioners, and the rest appointed by Government.

The Act has provided Calcutta with effective building regulations based on models of the most approved modern type. The rules regarding privies and building sites have been further revised to remove defects found by experience. In respect of water-supply, conservancy, drainage and a

multitude of other minor but important matters of Municipal administration, provision is made to ensure continuous and substantial improvement.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

153. In order to improve the large insanitary and congested areas in Calcutta, the Calcutta Improvement Act (Bengal Act V of 1911) has been passed with the sanction of the Governor-General, and a Board consisting of eleven trustees has been constituted and invested with special powers for carrying out the objects of the Act with effect from 2nd January 1912. Of this Board, the Chairman and four other members are appointed by Government, the Chairman of the Corporation is a Trustee *ex-officio*, three members are representatives of the Corporation, one of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and one of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. Trustees have been appointed and have begun their labours.

District and Local Boards and Union Committees.

154. The object which the Legislature had in view in passing Bengal Act III of 1885 was two-fold, viz.: (*i*) to educate the people of Bengal to interest themselves and to undertake responsibility in the management of public affairs, and (*ii*) to lighten the burden of administration, of which the strain on Government officers was annually increasing. The Act constituted three classes of local authorities, viz., District and Local Boards and Union Committees, and of these the District Board has been made the unit of administration and the Local Board its agent. The Act has since been amended by Bengal Act V of 1908. In reconstituted Bengal, the amended Local Self-Government Act is in force only in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, while in the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, which were in 1905 separated from Bengal and included in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the old Act is still in force. The more important changes made by the enactment of 1908 are referred to briefly below. A considerable delegation of powers to Commissioners of Divisions has been effected in respect of the appointment, removal and resignation of members, the election of Chairman of Local Boards and the sanctioning of the adoption of various model rules and bye-laws already framed by Government. Power has been taken to levy tolls on bridges, and the diversion of the road-cess to purposes other than those enumerated in section 109 of the Cess Act, 1880, has been prohibited. The application of the district fund has at the same time been extended in various directions. Under the head of "Education" contributions are permitted to secondary and other schools under private management and towards the maintenance of hostels, while the constitution of an Education Committee of each District Board has been provided for. In respect of medical work, authority has been given to District Boards to provide for the training and employment of compounders, midwives and veterinary practitioners, for the promotion of free vaccination and the furtherance of sanitation. The scope of expenditure permissible upon veterinary work has been greatly extended. The new provisions take larger powers for Union Committees in matters of the improvement of water-supply and drainage, the regulation of buildings and of conservancy and the prevention of public nuisances within their jurisdiction. Union Committees have also been empowered under section 118 C to impose a tax to meet the cost of improvements effected by them, if such cost cannot be met from their ordinary income. By the amendment of section 104, Union Committees are declared to be subordinate directly to the District Board and not to the Local Board as heretofore, unless, with the sanction of the Divisional Commissioner, the District Board directs under section 119 that special Union Committees should be controlled by a Local Board. Under the provisions of section 6 of the Act, District Boards have been constituted in all the districts of Bengal, with the exception of that of Darjeeling. Municipal areas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts are excluded in accordance with the provisions of section 1. Local Boards have been formed in all districts where there are subdivisions, except in the district of Chittagong. There are at present 25 District Boards and 71 Local Boards in Bengal. The system of village Unions has also been introduced. There are no Unions in the Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions. The total number of Unions is 56, viz., 22 in the Burdwan Division, 25 in the Presidency Division and 9 in the Chittagong Division.

In accordance with the provisions of section 7 of the Act, one-half of the members of District Boards are elected by Local Boards, and the other half

are nominated by Government in Eastern Bengal and by the Divisional Commissioners in West Bengal; and in districts where there are no Local Boards, the District Board consists entirely of members appointed by Government in Eastern Bengal and by the Divisional Commissioners in West Bengal. In every case the Magistrate of the district has been appointed by Government to be the Chairman, and experience has shown the wisdom of this, seeing that it would have been quite impossible to introduce and administer the measure in its present form, except under the direction of the District officer.

The provisions of the Act which relate to Pounds, Education, Medical and Public Works have been extended to every district in which the Act is in force, and, under the Amending Act of 1908, the provisions relating to Sanitation have been extended similarly. Every District Board must now appoint and maintain a Sanitary Inspector. Receipts accruing under the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, form one of the assets of the District Fund; and in order to secure that administrative control shall accompany financial responsibility, the powers of the District Magistrate under Chapters I to III of the Cattle Trespass Act have been conferred on District Boards. These powers relate to the establishment of pounds and their general management, the determination of the villages by which they are to be used, the appointment of pound-keepers and the fixing of fees. The system of farming pounds has been generally introduced, and they are regularly inspected by officers of Government and of the Boards. Leases for a longer period than one year are granted to persons of known position and solvency, and revised registers and forms of receipt have been introduced to enable a proper check to be kept over the pound-keepers.

Under sections 62 and 65 of the Act, the entire maintenance and management of Government Primary, Middle English and Middle Vernacular schools, the administration of grants-in-aid and the management of the primary grants have been vested in the District Boards. The old District Committees of Public Instruction ceased to exist in all the districts in which the Act is in force, and their establishments of Sub-Inspectors of Schools, teachers and clerks were all transferred to District Boards, but the Sub-Inspectors of Schools have since been re-transferred to the service of Government. Under section 66 of the Act, District Boards have been given the control and administration of some charitable dispensaries, while under section 69 they are authorised to contribute towards the cost of the maintenance of dispensaries which are situated outside the district, but are habitually used by the inhabitants of the district.

On the formation of the Boards all roads, bridges, channels, buildings and other property—movable and immovable—held by or under the control and administration of the previously-existing District or Branch Road Committees, were placed under their control and administration, and the old establishment was retained under the new management. District Boards having thus taken the place of District Road Committees, are required to carry out the same works, having at their disposal the same trained establishments. Most of the public ferries in the districts coming under the Act have been formally placed under the management of the respective District Boards under the provisions of section 35 of the Bengal Ferries Act, 1885, and their proceeds, as well as those of pounds assigned to the Boards to establish equilibrium between the receipts and charges transferred to them from the Provincial accounts. In cases in which the income so transferred has proved insufficient to redress their financial balance, a money grant has been made from Provincial Revenues so as to balance the receipts and charges transferred. It was at first believed that the revenue from pounds and ferries was susceptible of considerable improvement, and that from the expansion of the income under those heads the Boards would be able to provide for the medical needs of their districts and for other local requirements. These anticipations have only partially been fulfilled, and the resources of District Boards having been found to be insufficient to meet the growing demand for improved communications and especially for feeder roads, they were for several years augmented by an annual grant of five lakhs from Provincial Revenues. The Government of India have since sanctioned a permanent

grant to District Boards equivalent to 25 per cent. of their net road-cess receipts.

Local Boards are formed on the combined principle of election and nomination by Government in Eastern Bengal and by the Divisional Commissioners in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, and as a rule they avail themselves of the power which the law allows them of electing their own Chairmen from among the members, subject to the approval of the Local Government or the Divisional Commissioners, as the case may be. In a few cases only Chairmen are appointed by the Local Government at the request of the Boards. With certain exceptions these bodies administer the grants for village roads, pounds, ferries and primary education, while in some districts the supervision of dispensaries, village sanitation and district roads has also been entrusted to them. Local Boards have proved their usefulness, though in a less degree than the District Boards, as the scope of their work is more limited.

Union Committees have for the most part been entrusted with the control of pounds, village roads, sanitation and water-supply. In regard to primary schools, their authority is restricted to inspection, and no power of control has been conferred upon them. Their income consists of (*a*) net receipts from pounds, (*b*) a consolidated grant from the District Board for village roads, sanitation and water-supply and (*c*) funds raised under section 118 of the (section 118C of the amended) Act. In some districts these committees are reported to have done useful work within the limits of their powers and resources. The sphere of their usefulness is now largely increasing, as a larger income is at their disposal.

Character of Land Tenures; system of Settlement and Survey.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

Permanent Settlement, 1793.

155. With the exception of some parts which are temporarily settled the land revenue in Bengal is fixed under the Permanent Settlement concluded by Lord Cornwallis in 1793. It has already been stated that the East India Company succeeded to the Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in 1765, and that it was not till 1771 that they assumed, by the agency of their own servants, the direct management of the revenues. When, as a result of the grant of the Dewani, it became necessary for the Company's servants to undertake the administration of the land revenue, they were placed in one of the most extraordinary positions recorded in history. Ten years before, they had been utterly expelled from the country, of which they now assumed the *de facto* Government. Having been solely occupied in the pursuit of trade, they had no previous means of acquiring that knowledge and experience which were necessary to enable them to take with confidence the helm of affairs. The whole theory of Indian land revenue was unknown to them, nor was there a system of written rules and plain principles which they could learn by careful application. "The Company's servants," as Mr. Kaye says, "were dead hands at investments, but they knew nothing of land tenures." Accordingly, the revenue was for some years collected on the old Moghul system. The zamindars, or Government farmers, were recognized as having a right to collect the revenue from the actual cultivators, but no principle of assessment existed. The assessments were made for five years at one period, and for one year at another; while abuses prevailed as much in the collection of the revenue due to Government as in the realization of the rents due to zamindars. It was the object of Lord Cornwallis, almost from the moment of his arrival, to enquire into these abuses, to redress grievances, and to provide for the wellbeing of the cultivating community, the security of the zamindars, and the interest of the East India Company by one equitable code and system. With this object in view, the Decennial

Settlement was commenced in 1789 and completed in 1791. Lord Cornwallis advocated the making of this settlement permanent at once, but the Court of Directors, knowing that Shore and other able advisers deprecated the immediate declaration of permanence, deliberated for two years, and it was not till September 1792 that they consented to the proposal. A proclamation was then issued on the 22nd of March 1793, by which the Governor-General in Council declared that the zamindars, independent talukdars and other actual proprietors of land, with whom the Decennial Settlement had been concluded, would be allowed to hold their estates at the same assessment for ever, but that "no claims for remission or suspension of rent were to be admitted on any account, and lands of proprietors were to be invariably sold for arrears." Proprietors were also declared to have the privilege of transferring their lands without the sanction of Government, and partition or division of estates was to be freely allowed. This proclamation was afterwards included in the Statute Book as Regulation I of 1793.

Permanently-settled tracts.

156. The Permanent Settlement embraced, roughly speaking, the tracts of country now included in the Burdwan, the Presidency, Patna, Bhagalpur, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. It also comprised parts of the Hazaribagh and Manbhum districts and a few estates in Singhbhum and Ranchi in the Chota Nagpur Division, as well as Goalpara and Sylhet. Of these, the Burdwan, Presidency, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions now constitute the Presidency of Bengal.

Resumption proceedings.

157. At the time of the Permanent Settlement large areas were claimed as revenue free and the authority to scrutinize such revenue-free grants and, if invalid, to annex them, was reserved. Under Regulations XIX and XXXVII of 1793, Badshahi grants (*i.e.*, direct from the Moghul Emperor) were recognized as valid, if the holder could prove his *sanad* and was in possession, and Hukumi grants (*i.e.*, from officials of the Emperor), though by their nature invalid, were accepted as valid if dated prior to 1765. No active steps, however, were taken to resume invalid grants until 1830, when a Special Commissioner was appointed under the provisions of Regulation III of 1828. The resumption proceedings then begun lasted for twenty years, and some thousands of estates were added to the revenue-roll.

Temporarily settled tracts.

158. The main temporarily-settled tracts in Bengal are the district of Darjeeling obtained from the Raja of Sikkim in 1835, the Western Duars in Jalpaiguri, taken in 1864 from Bhutan, a large portion of the Chittagong district known as the Noabad area, and the Sundarbans which comprises the southern portions of the districts of the 24-Parganas, Khulna and Backergunge. In addition to these, many scattered estates, which have become the property of Government by purchase at revenue sales or by alluvial accretions, are settled for terms fixed by Government.

Status of zamindars.

159. The zamindars, with whom the settlement was made, were a heterogeneous body of men differing as to historical origin and actual status. Some of them, like the Rajas of Tippera, Cooch Behar, Bishnupur and Birbhum, represented the old Hindu and Muhammadan Rajas of the country previous to the Moghul conquest by the Emperor Akbar in 1576, or persons who claimed that status; others, like the Rajas of Rajshahi and Dinajpur, belonged to the great landholding families that came into existence during the Muhammadan Government through its sufferance or favour, and were *de facto* rulers in their own estates or territories, and paid only a fixed tribute or land-tax; while a third, the most numerous class, consisted of men whose families had held the office of revenue collector during one, two or more generations, and had thus, according to the practice of the East, established a kind of prescriptive right. Besides these, there were the revenue farmers who, since the grant of the Dewani in 1765, had collected the land revenue for the East India Company, and who also happened to be called zamindars. Thus, in 1790, the term zamindar included not only the mere collectors of revenue or tahsildars removable at pleasure, but also the land owners who held princely courts, dispensed justice in their own territories, maintained their own bodies of armed followers, and handed down their position from father to son. As a result of the Permanent Settlement, all these classes were placed on a uniform legal basis, and all previous differences in the customary *status* of several classes, which had grown out of differences in origin, were obliterated.

History of the law of landlord and tenant.

160. Causes very similar to those that led to the feudalization of Europe were in force in India at the beginning and middle of the eighteenth century and, when the English found themselves masters of the country, they saw a state of things not unlike the feudal government of the Middle Ages. Consciously or unconsciously, Lord Cornwallis was thus led to introduce an imitation of the English system of landed property. The State assumed to itself and made over to the zamindars its own supposed proprietary right to the soil, as if the cultivators had no right to hold land against the will of the Government and its grantees. Deeper and closer observation, however, would have disclosed, underlying the upper layer, conditions of life and ideas of legal rights and obligations dissimilar to any with which Englishmen were familar; and they consequently failed to appreciate, far less to grapple with them. The property in the soil was formally declared to be vested in the landholders, but no adequate provision was made for the protection of the class of persons who were the real proprietors of the soil, and who deserved the largest amount of protection from the hands of Government.

Regulation VIII of 1793.

161. Regulation VIII of 1793, no doubt, imposed restrictions on the levying of any new *abwab* or *mathut*, *i.e.*, illegal cesses, from the raiyats, and also made provision for the compulsory issue of *pattas* or leases obtained *bonâ fide* from a landlord, and directed that they should not be cancelled except upon a general measurement of the pargana for the purpose of equalising and correcting the assessment, or upon proof that the *pattas* had been obtained in collusion, or that the rents, paid within the last three years, had been reduced below the *nirikband* of the pargana or pargana rate. But beyond these vague and general rules, there was nothing laid down to regulate the relations between the zamindars and the raiyats. Lord Cornwallis was sanguine that the combined effects of the limitation and permanent settlement of the State demand and of the *patta* regulations, would have the ultimate effect of adjusting the relations between the two parties. His hopes were, however, not realized. The first disappointment experienced was the failure of the attempt to enforce the issue of written leases for all tenancies. In many instances, the zamindars were unwilling to grant *pattas* or tendered them at more than the customary rates; in others, the raiyats refused to accept them either because they could not understand them, or because they thought the terms to be unfair; while the pargana rates, according to which, under Regulation IV of 1794, the Civil Courts were to decide all disputes, varied from pargana to pargana and even in adjoining villages, and never were, nor could be, ascertained.

A constant struggle was thus kept up between the parties. The raiyat refused to pay his rent, and the zamindars had no legal means of enforcing the payment from him with the same rigid punctuality with which the collector insisted upon the payment of the Government revenue. The result was a widespread default in the payment of the Government dues and the sale of a large number of estates. "By the end of the century," says a competent authority, "the greater portions of the estates of the Nadia, Rajshahi, Bishnupur and Dinajpur Rajas had been alienated. The Burdwan estate was seriously crippled, and the Birbhum zamindari was completely ruined. A host of smaller zamindaris shared the same fate. In fact, it is scarcely too much to say that, within the ten years that immediately followed the Permanent Settlement, a complete revolution took place in the constitution and ownership of the estates which formed the subject of that settlement."

Regulation VII of 1799.

162. This circumstance caused the East India Company, which had to pay its dividends and to meet the expenses of the great war with Tippoo Sultan, in which Lord Wellesley was then engaged, some alarm for the security of the revenue, and the Government, pressed by want of money, agreed to strengthen the hands of those on whom it immediately depended for its punctual payment. The notorious Haftam, or Regulation VII of 1799, was, therefore, enacted "for enabling proprietors and farmers of land to realize their rents with greater punctuality." This Regulation gave the landlords practically unrestricted right of distraint. They were empowered "to distrain, without sending any notice to any Court of Justice or any public officer, the crops and products of the earth of every description, the

grain, cattle, and all other personal property, whether found in the house or on the premises of any other person." To make matters worse, Magistrates were required to punish, by fine or imprisonment, raiyats who could not establish the truthfulness of complaints of hardship brought by them against landlords, or their distraining agents, and the Civil Courts were directed to indemnify zamindari officers, or others employed in the collections, when improperly summoned. This Regulation was not meant to define or limit the actual "rights of any description of landholders or tenants, which could properly be ascertained and determined by judicial investigation only, but merely to point out in what manner defaulting tenants should be proceeded against in the event of their not paying the rents justly due from them, leaving them to recover their rights, if infringed, with full costs and damages in the established Courts of Justice." "These last provisions," remarks Mr. Field, "scarcely required comment. There is scarcely a country in the civilized world in which a landlord is allowed to evict his tenant without having recourse to the regular tribunals; but the Bengal zamindar was deliberately told by the Legislature that he was at liberty to oust his tenants if the rents *claimed by him* were in arrear at the end of the year, leaving *them* to recover their rights, if infringed, by having recourse to those new and untried courts of Justice, the failure in which might be punished with fine or imprisonment."

163. There was, however, no intention to abrogate the rights of the raiyats by Regulation VII of 1799; and when, during Lord Minto's Administration, the evil effects of the Regulation became known, there was a strong revulsion of official feeling, which produced Regulation V of 1812 (the Panjam), whereby it was hoped to correct the bad effects of Regulation VII of 1799. The preamble to this Regulation is somewhat in the nature of an indictment against zamindars. There were grounds, it was said, for believing that this class had abused their powers and had been guilty of acts of oppression in connection with the distraint and sale of the property of their tenants. It was, therefore, enacted that zamindars were bound to serve their tenants with a written demand specifying the precise amount of their arrears and, by way of relief or compensation, the tenant, if he disputed the justice of the demand, was enabled to get the attachment released by making a certain application within five days and binding himself to institute a civil suit to contest the distraint and attachment within another fifteen days. But this provision was clogged with formalities and, in practice, was inoperative. The defaulting tenant had to execute a bond with a surety before either a Commissioner, a Judge, a Collector, or the Kazi of the pargana that he would speedily institute his suit, and a civil suit in those days involved much trouble, a good deal of time, and no inconsiderable outlay. If the suit was not instituted within the prescribed time, the attachment revived against the person and the property of the defaulter who had given sureties for his action, and the property of the unfortunate surety became liable for the arrears of rent, if no suit was brought. It is noticeable that there is raised in this law for the first time a doubt as to the existence of any regular standard known as the pargana rate. Failing such rates, rents were to be assessed and collections made according to the rates payable for lands of a similar description in the neighbourhood. There was another important section in the law by which an enhanced rate of rent could not be levied or awarded judicially unless it was preceded by a formal notice. Of the excellent intention of the framers of this law there can be no doubt, but it made no provision for defining rights by record, and thus only dealt with a part of the evil. It would, however, have been a relief, had it not been neutralized by other Regulations.

Regulation V of 1812.

164. In a despatch, dated the 1st of August 1822, the Government of India proposed to the Court of Directors to make a survey and record-of-rights of the permanently-settled districts of Bengal, as being the only effectual means of defining and maintaining the rights of the raiyats. This proposal was, however, never carried out and, while the correspondence relating to it was proceeding, fresh legislation, which proved injurious to the raiyats, was undertaken. A Regulation, No. XI, was passed in 1822, relating to the sale of land for arrears of revenue which being, like the Haftam, intended to

Regulation XI of 1822.

enable the zamindars to realize their rents and then discharge the Government revenue, really placed them in a position of abnormal superiority to their raiyats.

Thus, up to the middle of the last century, the zamindars exercised an authority over the raiyats far greater than that given to them by the original settlement of 1793. All legislation of this period, dealing with landlord and tenant, had one primary object, viz., the security of the public revenue, and each successive Regulation served only to arm those who were under engagements for revenue with additional powers, so as to enable them to realize their demands in the first instance, whether right or wrong. "Under the Haftam process," as has been well observed, "the person of the raiyat could be seized in default; under the Panjam process his property could be distrained; and in either case the proceedings commenced with what has been described as a strong presumption equivalent to a knock-down blow against the raiyat." Remedies were no doubt provided in every Regulation for redress against any injustice by referring discontented parties to the Civil Court, but, constituted as the Civil Courts then were, the raiyats were left without adequate means of relief for the most manifest extortions. Regulation I of 1793 had declared: "It being the duty of the ruling power to protect all classes of people and more particularly those who, from their situation, are helpless, the Governor-General in Council will, whenever he may deem it proper, enact such Regulations as he may think necessary for the protection and welfare of the dependent talukdars, raiyats and other cultivators of the soil," but no attempt even was made to give effect to this declaration till 1859.

Act X of 1859. 165. Act X of 1859, which may be described as the first modern tenant law, came at a time when the evils of the existing state of things were so patent that, in giving his assent to the Act as passed by the Legislative Council on the 29th of April 1859, Lord Canning was able to say, "no objection is suggested to the nature of the settlement which the Bill contemplates." The Act defined the classes of tenants whose rent was fixed, and conferred a right of occupancy on those who had continuously held the same land for twelve years either personally or through their predecessors from whom the holding descended. This right of occupancy was of course conditional on the due payment of rent which could only be enhanced for certain specified reasons and by a certain procedure. The Act also made provisions for settling rent-disputes and questions of abatement and enhancement, renewed the attempt to bring about an interchange of *pattas* and *kabuliyats*, directed the delivery of receipts for rent, and transferred the original jurisdiction in suits between landlord and tenant from the Civil to the Revenue Courts. Distraint was modified but not abolished, and the registration of transfers of permanent transferable interests between the cultivator and the landlord was made compulsory. Act X of 1859 was amended by Bengal Act VIII of 1869, by which the trial of rent-suits was again transferred from the Revenue authorities to the Civil Courts.

Act VIII of 1885. 166. The principal defects of Act X of 1859 were that it placed the right of occupancy which it recognized in the tenant, and the right of enhancement which it recognized in the landlord, on a precarious footing. It gave, or professed to give, the raiyat a right which he could not prove, and the landlord one which he could not enforce. The courts of law, with rigid impartiality, required the raiyat to establish his occupancy right by showing that he had cultivated the same plot of land for twelve successive years, and demanded from the landlord the impossible proof that the value of the produce had increased in the same proportion in which he asked that his rent should be enhanced. The party upon whom lay the burden of proof was almost certain to fail. To this evil, the Bengal Tenancy Act (Act VIII of 1885) was intended to afford a remedy. The principle of the Act may be said to be based upon a system of fixity of tenure at judicial rents, and its three main objects are, first,—to give the settled raiyat the same security in his holding as he enjoyed under the old customary law; secondly, to ensure to the landlord a fair share of the increased value of the produce of the soil; and, thirdly, to lay down rules by which all disputed questions between landlord and tenant can be reduced to simple issues and decided upon equitable

principles. A good example of the first will be found in the clause which throws upon the landlord the onus of disproving the raiyat's claim to a right of occupany; the second is illustrated by the section relating to price lists, which relieves the zamindar of the burden of showing that the value of the produce has increased; the third pervades the whole of the Act, and is specially conspicuous in the valuable section which authorizes an application to determine the incidents of a tenancy, and in the chapter which relates to records-of-right and settlements of rents. The maintenance of the principles of the Act is further safeguarded by a section which restricts the power of entering into contracts in contravention of its fundamental provisions.

In pursuance of these main principles, the Act lays down rules to guide the courts in determining whether a tenant is a tenure-holder or a raiyat; it provides a procedure for the registration of the transfers of tenures; it defines the position of raiyats who hold at fixed rates of rent; it facilitates enhancement or reduction of rents of settled and other raiyats by suit; it establishes a system for the commutation of rents payable in kind; it specifies the grounds on which a non-occupancy raiyat may be ejected; it prescribes rules for instalments, receipts and interest upon arrears; it encourages the making of improvements; it restricts subletting; it provides for cases in which holdings are surrendered or abandoned; it protects the interests, both of the parties and of the general public, in cases of disputes between co-sharers; it lays down a procedure for recording the private lands of proprietors; it introduces a new system of distraint; it gives protection to sub-tenants when the interest of the superior holder is relinquished or sold in execution of a decree; and finally it provides for a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights in respect of any local area, estate or tenure or part thereof, by a Revenue officer, and thus settles all disputes between landlord and tenant as to area, rent and status which are the chief subjects of contention. Moreover, by repeal of Act VIII (B.C.) of 1879, the Act under which settlements of land revenue were previously made by Government, the latter is placed on the same footing as other proprietors, except in regard to the retention of the certificate procedure for the speedy recovery of arrears of its rent. This is the existing tenant law of Bengal.

Thus the Legislature of 1885, nearly a century after the Permanent Settlement, settled the general principles by which the relation between the landlord and the tenant was to be regulated. Act VIII of 1885, though not professing to be an exhaustive code of the law of landlord and tenant, is nevertheless a complete and self-contained enactment so far as the most important agrarian relations are concerned. Since it was passed in 1885, it has undergone various important amendments; but the principles on which the Act was founded have remained unaltered. The first amendment of the Act was made by Act VIII of 1886 which merely made some slight alterations in the sections dealing with the transfer of permanent tenures. It was followed by Act I of 1894 which made some changes in the procedure for the preparation of a record-of-rights under Chapter X.

167. But the first important amendment was made by Act III of 1898 which completely recast Chapter X, dividing it into two separate portions, the first dealing with the preparation of a record-of-rights with a view to a settlement of the land revenue and providing for a settlement of fair and equitable rents for tenants of every class, as an integral part of the operations; and the second dealing with the preparation of a record-of-rights in areas where the land revenue is not being settled, the settlement officer being given power to settle fair and equitable rents only where application is made for such settlement by the landlord or tenant, and in other cases being confined to a record of the rent payable at the time the record-of-rights is being prepared. The Act also made some important alterations in the provisions relating to enhancement and reduction of rent. Act III of 1898.

168. The last amending Act is Act I (B.C.) of 1907 (corresponding to Eastern Bengal and Assam Act I of 1908) which is probably the most important agrarian measure passed since 1885. This Act gives greater authority to the record-of-rights when duly prepared and published. The entry regarding rent has to be produced in all rent-suits and every entry in a record-of-rights is to be presumed by the Civil Courts to be correct Act I [B. C.] of 1907.

until it is proved by evidence to be incorrect and a Court passing a decree at variance with entries in a record-of-rights has to record its reasons for so doing. The Act also provides that, where a record-of-rights has been prepared and is being maintained, a landlord may apply to Government to have his arrears of rent recovered by the summary procedure prescribed in the Public Demands Recovery Act I (B.C.) of 1895. On the other hand, with the consent of the Governor-General in Council, a Revenue officer may be empowered to reduce rents which have been illegally enhanced above those entered as legally payable in a record-of-rights. The Act also lays down that no Revenue or Civil Court shall give effect to agreements or compromises between landlords and tenants, the terms of which, if embodied in a contract, could not be enforced under the Tenancy Act.

Record-of-rights.

(a) Registration of estates.

169. A primary object of the framers of the Permanent Settlement was to record all rights in the land. Accordingly, the Legislature intended from the beginning that there should be at least one register kept up, showing the extent and particulars of each estate separately assessed with revenue payable to Government. The object was to enable the Collectors to apportion the revenue in cases of partitions, and to enable the Civil Courts to know when an estate changed hands, or happened to be transferred from one district to another.

Regulation XLVII of 1793.

170. Regulation XLVII of 1793 prescribed a general register of estates paying revenue immediately to Government. Each estate was to be described by name, and it was to be mentioned whether it consisted of a village, a *tappa* (group of villages), or a pargana. The nature of the grant was to be described and, if the estate had been partitioned, the shares were to be specified. A register of intermediate mutations was to be kept, and the general register was to be rewritten every five years. The Registration Regulation of 1800 made further provisions and directed that the registers should be kept up by parganas, but, up till the passing of the Bengal Land Registration Act (VII of 1876), the law as to registration was not strictly enforced. Such registers as there were did not explain who the owners were, and furnished no information about under-tenures and raiyats.

Act VII of 1876.

The present law requires the registration of all lands, whether revenue-paying or revenue-free, and every person in possession, as owner or manager of such lands, or of any share in such lands, is required within a certain period, and under heavy penalties, to register full particulars of the property in his possession. The object of the Act is not to make an inquisition into titles, but to identify all individuals on whom the Legislature has imposed certain duties and obligations in virtue of their being in possession of land as proprietors. The registers, required to be kept up now, are (1) a register A showing the revenue-paying lands in the district, (2) a register B of revenue-free lands, (3) a register C of lands paying revenue and those held revenue free, arranged "mauzawar," and (4) an intermediate register D for all kinds of land, showing the changes in proprietary rights and changes caused by the alteration of the district and other boundaries. These registers are now maintained in every district.

(b) Registration of subordinate interests in land.

171. It will be observed that these registers do not profess to deal with any subordinate rights or interests. For several years after the Permanent Settlement, endeavours were made to maintain a record of these through kanungos and patwaris, but without success. An attempt was made to revive the system in 1885, but had to be abandoned. In 1895, the Land Records Maintenance Act was passed, and it has been worked experimentally in selected districts in Bihar, but the result has been disappointing. A scheme for the maintenance of records in the district of Chittagong was prepared in 1906-1907, but it involved great initial expense and it has never been carried into effect. The defect in the registration of subordinate interests has been partially supplied by the returns submitted under the Road Cess Act. The results are, however, vitiated by the system of summary valuation for the purposes of cess calculation which "withdraws from sight all details of tenures, under-tenures and raiyati holdings contained in such estates or tenures as are summarily valued." "In the instructions issued to the officers engaged in making revaluations under Act IX of 1880, an attempt was made to remedy this defect in the returns by declaring that the

least possible recourse should be had to the process of summary valuation." The Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885), however, now provides for the preparation of the record-of-rights of all interests in land. This has been prepared for the districts of Backergunge and Chittagong and for some portions of Midnapore, Tippera, Noakhali and Rangpur. In Faridpur and Jalpaiguri a record-of-rights is approaching completion; in the rest of Midnapore, in Mymensingh, and Dacca and on both banks of the Brahmaputra and the Ganges it is in course of preparation, while arrangements have been made for its preparation in the district of Rajshahi. Another method of registering under-tenures is that under the Sale Law (Act XI of 1859), which provides that they may be registered either in a common or a special register. Registration in the former protects them from being voided on sale of the estate for arrears, by any party other than Government, and registration in the latter protects them absolutely. Changes in certain subordinate interests, *viz.*, permanent tenures, and holdings at rents or rates of rent fixed in perpetuity (and shares of the same) are registered under the Bengal Tenancy Act. It will be clear that while the preparation of records-of-rights supplies completely the want of a register of all subordinate interests in land in the areas which they cover, no attempt has as yet been made to keep them up to date. In the areas which are not covered by records-of-rights, information as to subordinate interests is not only very defective, but is also available only in forms of which it is difficult to make use for administrative or statistical purposes.

Means of recovering revenue.

172. The revenue of the permanently-settled estates of Bengal is, as a rule, realized with great punctuality. As the *jama* was fixed by the Permanent Settlement never to be increased, so, on the other hand, remissions were declared to be inadmissible whether on the plea of loss from unfavourable seasons, inundations or any other cause. The payment of revenue is the first charge on an estate, and a default, on the part of a zamindar, renders his property liable to sale by auction for the realization of the arrears.

In the earlier years, the revenue instalments were payable monthly, and an arrear of revenue was defined to be "the whole or the portion of the *kist*, or instalment, payable in any month and remaining undischarged on the first of the following month." On the accrual of an arrear, the Collector was to serve a notice on the defaulter, and, on his failure to pay, had the option of putting him under confinement. The Board of Revenue alone, however, could direct the sale of the whole or any portion of the estate, and the sanction of the Governor-General in Council was in every case necessary. If the proceeds of the sale did not satisfy the Government demand, other properties of the defaulter might be sold to recover the remainder. In 1794 proprietors of land were declared to be no longer liable to be confined for arrears of public revenue, unless in the event of the whole of their lands having been sold without realizing sufficient to defray the amount due to Government. The Board were at the same time authorized to advertise estates for sale in anticipation of the sanction of the Governor-General, but no sale was to take place without such sanction.

Regulation VII of 1799.

173. Material alterations were made in the law by Regulation VII of 1799. It was then enacted that, when an arrear remained undischarged on the first day of the month succeeding that for which it was due, the Collector was immediately to require payment with interest; and if it were not then discharged, he was to proceed without delay to attach the estates of the defaulter, or such portions thereof as would be sufficient to make good the amount due. These estates were, however, not to be sold till the end of the year, and the Board were now for the first time authorized to sell them without any reference to the Governor-General. If the whole arrear was not recovered from the sale of the defaulter's lands, the deficiency was to be recoverable from any other property he might possess or by imprisonment of his person.

Regulation XVIII of 1814.

174. By Regulation XVIII of 1814 a further modification was made. It authorized the Collectors to advertise the lands of a defaulter for sale without the previous sanction of the Board of Revenue, if such lands constituted an entire estate or the whole of the defaulter's rights and interests in a joint estate. He was then to report to the Board, and was not to proceed to actual sale until receipt of the Board's sanction. This sanction the Board

were empowered to give without any previous reference to the Governor General in Council.

Regulation XI of 1822.

175. The next Regulation of importance was XI of 1822. During the twenty years which had elapsed since the passing of Regulation VII of 1799, a great change had taken place. The object of the legislation of 1799 and the following years had been to secure the punctual realization of the revenue assessed at the time of the Permanent Settlement without resort to the old system of confining, and occasionally inflicting corporal punishment upon defaulters. The terror of personal coercion being removed, various devices had been practised to elude payment of the just dues of Government; and, in many instances, these dues had not been discharged, because those who were liable to Government for revenue were unable to compel similar punctuality in the payment of rent by their tenants. Armed, however, with powers of enforcing payment scarcely inferior to those exercised by Government for enforcing payments of its revenue, and taught by experience that persistence in fraudulent devices was sure to result in an ultimate loss, the great majority were successfully schooled to punctuality, and cases of default became yearly of less frequent occurrence. At the same time the prosperity, resulting from more than a quarter of a century's peace, largely raised the value of land, and, where arrears had been suffered to accrue, owing to temporary apathy; or mismanagement, or negligence, or dishonesty of agents, and in consequence, an estate had been brought to sale by the inexorable revenue authorities, flaws in their proceedings were eagerly searched for, and the Civil Courts were resorted to for setting aside sales at which irregularities had been discovered. The rights of the auction purchasers, not being very exactly defined by the Regulations, formed, moreover, a constant source of litigation. We find the Legislature in 1822, therefore, no longer devising means for bringing home their liability for arrears to proprietors, but improving the procedure of the revenue authorities, declaring what irregularities should be held material and what immaterial, and defining the exact interest acquired by purchasers at public sales.

Accordingly, Regulation XI of 1822 dispensed with the necessity of issuing process of attachment before putting the estate up for sale; laid down the conditions necessary for the validity of the sale; defined the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in cases of sale; framed rules for the conduct of sales; and vested the Board of Revenue with the power of annulling sales made by Collectors under their authority, not only in cases in which they appeared to have been irregularly conducted by those officers, but also in cases in which the defaulter might clearly appear to have been defrauded or deceived by his own agents, or in which the confirmation of the sale might, from any cause, appear to be a measure of excessive severity or to be otherwise inexpedient or improper.

Regulation VII of 1830.

176. The last of the Regulations concerned with recovery of arrears of revenue was Regulation VII of 1830, which authorized Collectors to advertise estates in arrears for sale, and to proceed to actual sale without any previous reference for the sanction of the Commissioner, who had been appointed under the provisions of Regulation I of 1829, and to whom had been delegated some of the more immediate functions of the Board. No sale was, however, to be final until it had been confirmed by the Commissioner. This law lasted till 1841, when Act XII replaced it. The provisions of the latter Act, which were re-enacted with slight modifications in Act I of 1845, are still to be found in almost their original form in Act XI of 1859, the existing Sale Law for Bengal.

Act XII of 1841.

Act XI of 1859.

177. Act XI of 1859 was passed, not so much from any necessity for altering what had been done in 1841, or for remedying defects which time had brought to light in the working of the law as then settled, as from the expediency of affording protection to new interests which had sprung up during a further period of progress and prosperity. Under this Act an "arrear" accrues, if the *kist* or instalment of revenue of one month remains unpaid on the 1st of the following month, but in some cases notice for fifteen days before sale is required; persons, who have a lien upon any estate and who pay the money to protect such estate from sale, are allowed to add the amount so paid to the amount of the original lien; sharers

of a joint estate can protect their own shares from being sold for arrears along with the rest of the estate by applying to the Collector to be allowed to pay their share of the Government revenue separately. To guard against the accidental sale of their estates by reason of the neglect or fraud of their agents, recorded proprietors of estates are empowered to deposit with the Collector money or Government securities endorsed and made payable to the order of the Collector, at the same time signing an agreement pledging the same to Government by way of security for the revenue of the entire estate, and authorizing the Collector to apply them to the payment of any revenue that may become due therefrom; and, lastly, to protect the holders of under-tenures from loss by the avoidance of their tenures by the sale of the estate, the law provides for two sets of registers, one for Common Registry, and the other for Special Registry, Common Registry securing them against any auction-purchaser except Government, and Special Registry securing them against Government also. An appeal against a sale, held by the Collector, lies to the Commissioner, who may set aside the sale, if illegal, or, in cases of hardship, report to the Board, on whose recommendation it may be annulled by the Local Government. The Civil Courts have also been empowered to set aside sales in certain cases.

One feature of the Sale Law, which was early considered to be necessary, deserves notice. Soon after the Permanent Settlement it became a custom with the landlords to divest themselves of the trouble of management by farming out portions of their estates. There were so many encumbrances that it was apprehended that, if they remained valid when the landlord's interest was sold for arrears of revenue, the prices realized would not be sufficient to meet the demands of Government. It was, accordingly, enacted in the Regulation of 1793, that, on a sale for arrears of revenue, all engagements subsisting between the proprietors and their dependent talukdars, farmers and raiyats, on account of such land, should, with certain exceptions, stand cancelled. But this wholesale avoidance of contracts, made by the defaulting landlords, was soon recognized to be excessive, and successive Regulations and Acts have mitigated the terms.

178. The protected interests under the present Sale Law are :— **Interests protected under Act XI of 1859.**

(1) Istimrari or mukarrari tenures, which have been held at a fixed rent from the time of the Permanent Settlement;

(2) Tenures, existing at the time of the Settlement, which have not been held at a fixed rent; provided that the rents of such tenures shall be liable to enhancement under any law for the time being in force for the enhancement of the rent of such tenures;

(3) Talukdari and other similar tenures created since the time of the Settlement and held immediately by the proprietors of estates, and farms for terms of years so held, when such tenures and farms have been duly registered under the provision of this Act; and

(4) Leases of lands whereon dwelling-houses, manufactories, or other permanent buildings have been erected, or whereon gardens, plantations, tanks, wells, canals, places of worship, or burning- or burying-grounds have been made, or wherein mines have been sunk.

It is to be remembered, however, that the protection that this law affords to the tenure-holders and the check it introduces on attempts by zamindars to utilize it as a means for enhancing rents, are much lessened through the period of limitation laid down by section 2 of Act III (B.C.) of 1862.

179. At the permanent settlement Government, by abdicating its position as exclusive possessor of the soil, and contenting itself with a permanent rent-charge on the land, escaped thenceforward the labour and risks attendant upon detailed *mufassal* management. The zamindars of Bengal Proper were not slow to follow the example set them, and immediately began to dispose of their zamindaris in a similar manner. Permanent tenures, known as *patni* tenures, were created in large numbers, and extensive tracts were **General account of tenures, under-tenures, and holdings in Bengal.**

Patni tenures.

leased out on long terms. By the year 1819, permanent alienations of the kind described had been so extensively effected, that they were formally legalized by Regulation VIII of that year, and means were afforded to the zamindar of recovering arrears of rent from his patnidars, almost identical with those by which the demands of Government were enforced against himself. The practice of granting such tenures has steadily continued, until at the present day a large proportion of the whole permanently-settled area has passed from the direct possession of the zamindars. In these alienations the zamindars have made far better terms for themselves than the Government was able to make for itself in 1793. It has rarely happened that a *patni*, or even a lease for a term of years, has been given otherwise than on payment of a bonus, which has discounted the contingency of many years' increased rents. It is a system by which, in its adoption by the zamindars, their posterity suffers, because it is clear that if the bonus were not exacted, a higher rental could be permanently obtained from the land. This consideration has not, however, had much practical weight with the landholders. If a gradual accession to the wealth and influence of sub-proprietors be a desirable thing in the interest of the community, then the action of the landholding class is not in this instance a subject for regret.

Darpatnis, dar-ijaras, &c.

180. The process of sub-infeudation described above has not terminated with the *patnidars* and *ijardars*. Lower gradations of tenures under them, called *dar-patnis* and *dar-ijaras* and even further subordinate tenures, called *sepatnis*, *chaharpatnis*, etc., have been created in great numbers. Not unfrequently, especially where particular lands are required for the growth of special crops, such as indigo, superior holders have taken under-tenures from their own tenants. These tenures and under-tenures often comprise defined tracts of land ; but a common practice has been to sublet certain aliquot shares of the whole superior tenure, the consequence of which is that the tenants in any particular village of an estate now very often pay their rents to two, or even many more than two, different landlords, so many annas in the rupee to each. It must be added that in many cases where an estate or tenure has been sublet, the lessor has reserved certain portions, generally those immediately contiguous to his residence, in his own possession. These he may cultivate through raiyats, or, especially if he be a European indigo-planter, by hired labour. Such lands are called his *khamar*, *zirat*, *sir*, *nij*, *nij-jot*, or *kamat*. Sometimes he reserves also a portion in which he makes direct collection from the raiyats, and this he calls his *hastabud* land.

Zirat and hastabud.

Under-tenures recognized at the Permanent Settlement of 1793.

181. All the under-tenures in Bengal have not, however, been created since the Permanent Settlement in the manner above described. Dependent taluks, *gantis*, *howalas*, and other similar fixed and transferable under-tenures existed before that event occurred. Their permanent character was practically recognized at the time of the settlement, and has, at any rate, since been confirmed by lapse of time.

Detailed account of tenures, under-tenures, and holdings in Bengal.

Taluks (independent and dependent).

Huzuri and kharija (independent) taluks.

182. Taluks in Bengal are of two kinds, the *huzuri* (that is, paying to the *huzur* or headquarter treasury), and *kharija* (that is, separated) taluks, and the *shikmi* (dependent), *mazkuri* (because they were specified in the zamindar's engagements), and *shamili* (from *shamil*, extending to) taluks. The *huzuri* or *khariia* taluks only are estates or zamindaris, the others being tenures.

Most of the *taluks* now in existence appear to date from before the Permanent Settlement and a large number were grants from the previous Muhammadan Government. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and probably elsewhere, these *taluks* were granted for the reclamation of waste lands. They differed greatly in size, and following the Muhammadan practice of collecting revenue through as few channels as possible, they were directed to pay their revenue through a substantial middleman (often one of themselves) or through a neighbouring zamindar. They were, however, originally independent, and it was the intention of the British Government at the time of the Permanent Settlement to separate all such grants by the paramount power from the zamindari to which they were attached. In the ignorance of those days very partial effect was given to this intention, many talukdars who were really independent being left in the zamindaris and others, who derived their title from the zamindar, being separated. Zamindars themselves sold or gave away portions of their zamindaris in Muhammadan times, while other

portions were forcibly taken away from them or sold to pay arrears of revenue or other debts to the state. Many such cases were classed at the Permanent Settlement as *kharija* taluks.

The creation of taluks by zamindars and of subordinate tenures by talukdars was probably only common under the Muhammadan system where extensive areas of jungle were being reclaimed. When British rule replaced Muhammadan rule, it became much more frequent even before the Permanent Settlement, many of the tenures being created in favour of a relative of the grantor, largely, no doubt, because the early British system of assessing revenue upon the rental made this an easy method of hoodwinking the revenue authorities. Tenures at a fixed rent, whether taluks or subordinate tenures, were impossible under the Muhammadan revenue system and were not legal under the British system until 1812. Even then they were not valid in the event of a sale of the grantor's zamindari for arrears of revenue. In 1859, they became protected interests on registration under the Sale Law. The Bengal Tenancy Act conferred further privileges upon permanent tenures existing from the time of the Permanent Settlement.

In Bengal at the present day the number of tenures and subordinate tenures is legion, but very little is accurately known about them, except in districts in which a record-of-rights has been prepared.

There are, however, in general three main classes :—

(1) *Abadkari* tenures created for the reclamation of waste land by the establishment of tenants.
(2) *Patni* tenures created since the permanent settlement to facilitate the collection of rent and thereby the payment of revenue.
(3) *Jote* tenures, which are often very old and of which the holders have gradually come to form a distinct class with prescriptive rights.

The first class is most common in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and in the southern districts of the Presidency Division.

The second class is chiefly found in the Burdwan Division, but has extended to all Divisions.

The third class is chiefly found in the Rajshahi Division.

It will be noted that whereas the second class consists exclusively of pure middlemen, this is not necessarily true of the first class and not at all true of the third class. In both these classes there are tenure-holders, who cultivate as well as sublet, and amongst *jote* tenure-holders there are many who are pure cultivators. Some confusion as to the rights of these tenure-holders was introduced by the classification of all tenants by the Tenancy Act as either tenure-holders, raiyats or under-raiyats, the tenure-holder being generally described as a middleman and the raiyat as a cultivator. Cultivators, who hold *abadkari* and *jote* tenures, have thereby been in danger of being classified as raiyats and of losing some of the rights and privileges to which they are by custom and privilege entitled. A description of some of the tenures which are found in Bengal follows.

Fixed rent tenures.

183. There are certain tenures which have existed from before the Permanent Settlement and are known as *istimrari*, *mukarrari* and *maurusi* tenures. Properly speaking, the first refers to the perpetual nature of the tenure, the second refers to the rent being fixed but is not necessarily hereditary ; the third means that the tenure is hereditary, but implies nothing as to the fixity of rent. These distinctions are not, however, now observed, and the three terms are applied to all tenures held at a fixed rent and from generation to generation. They are protected from cancellation on the occurrence of a sale for arrears of revenue of the parent estate, if they existed at the time of the Permanent Settlement, or have been duly registered under the provisions of the Sale Law.

Miras leases of Dacca, Taluks and mirasi tenures of Tippera.

184. *Miras* leases (*miras* is derived from the same root as *maurusi*) are found in Dacca and some other districts of Eastern Bengal. In Tippera there is a great variety of taluks and *mirasi* tenures, distinguished by various names which, however, mean nothing more than that there is some condition attached to their recognition by the landlord or some special feature in their origin or terms, *e.g.*, *zomma-miras*, which means a tenure held originally by

one person but made over in charge to another; "*az-mushaksi miras*" which is a tenure recognized after measurement and assessment; *taksisi* taluk which means that the landlord has reserved the right to test and measure the area and reassess it at some future date; *tashkisi* taluk which means a taluk recognized after measurement; and *bandobasti* taluk which is a taluk granted after measurement and making out an account of expenses, allowance for *malikana*, etc., and determining the resulting payment as rent.

Patni, darpatni, and sepatni tenures.

185. The *patni* tenure had its origin in the estates of the Maharaja of Burdwan, and thence spread all over the permanently-settled area of the Province. It appears that the Maharaja first created this species of tenure in his large estates in the Burdwan and other districts, but that he extended it when, in the early part of this century, he became possessed by purchase of large estates in the district of Bankura. A *patni* tenure is, in effect, a lease, which binds its holder by terms and conditions similar to those by which a superior landlord is bound to the State. By Regulation XLIV of 1793, the proprietors of estates were allowed to grant leases for a period not exceeding 10 years, but this provision was rescinded by section 2 of Regulation V of 1812, while by Regulation XVIII of the same year proprietors were declared competent to grant leases for any period even in perpetuity. Finally, Regulation VIII of 1819, known as the Patni Sale Law, declared the validity of these permanent tenures, defined the relative rights of the zamindars and their subordinate *patni* talukdars, and established a summary process for the sale of such tenures in satisfaction of the zamindar's demand of rent. It also legalized under-letting, on similar terms, by the patnidars and others. Since the passing of this law this form of tenure has been very popular with zamindars who wish to divest themselves of the direct management of their property, or part of it, or who wish to raise money in the shape of a bonus. It may be described as a tenure created by the zamindar to be held by the lessee and his heirs or transferees forever at a rent fixed in perpetuity, subject to the liability of annulment on sale of the parent estate for arrears of the Government revenue, unless protected against the rights exercisable by auction-purchasers by common or special registry, as prescribed by sections 37 and 39 of Act XI of 1859. The tenant is called upon to furnish collateral security for the rent and for his conduct generally, or he is excused from this obligation at the zamindar's discretion. Under-tenures created by patnidars are called *darpatni*, and those created by darpatnidars are called *sepatni* tenures. These under-tenures are, like the parent tenures, permanent, transferable and heritable; and have generally the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities attached to them. They are usually granted on payment of a bonus. Section 13 of Regulation VIII of 1819 provides rules for staying the sale of a *patni*, if it takes place owing to the intentional withholding of payment of rent by the patnidar with the object of ruining his subordinate tenure-holders. In such cases the under-tenants are allowed the means of saving the *patni* tenure and their own under-tenures by paying into the Collector's office the advertised balance due to the zamindar. The *patni* tenure so preserved forms the necessary security to the depositors, who have a lien on it in the same manner as if the loan had been made upon mortgage. The depositors may then apply to the Collector for obtaining immediate possession of the defaulter's tenure; and the defaulter will not recover his tenure, "except upon repayment of the entire sum advanced, with interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum up to the date of possession having been given, or upon exhibiting proof, in a regular suit to be instituted for the purpose, that the full amount so advanced, with interest, has been realized from the usufruct of the tenure."

Tenures of Chittagong.

186. The land tenures found in Chittagong are:—

(1) the proprietary estates of the petty zamindars, or *tarafdars*, who were originally the middlemen between the Central Government and the talukdars;

(2) the subordinate tenures of the *talukdars* who have the direct interest in the land; and

(3) the tenures of those who came in after the permanent settlement and whose holdings are known as *noabad* taluks.

During the turbulent times preceding the Muhammadan occupation of the district, small settlements of cultivators appear to have been formed in different directions for the purpose of reclaiming the jungle with which the district was then covered and the clearance, which a family and its dependents made, came to be known as a *taluk*. As there was no Central Government prior to 1666 sufficiently strong to collect revenue, it is probable that none was paid at this period. As soon as the Muhammadans established themselves in the country, they took steps to collect rents from these squatters and, with this object in view, grouped the already existing taluks into estates or *tarafs*.

The unit of each *taraf* was the settler's clearance, and the *tarafdar* was the middleman, who collected the revenue from the talukdars and paid a portion of it to the Government. But, inasmuch as the bulk of the district was as yet covered with dense forest, and what cultivation there was lay scattered about in small clearances, it followed that the *taraf* or the estate was itself only an aggregate of such scattered clearances. Such *tarafs* were usually called after the name of the original grantee; and as the settlers were many and scattered all over the district, while the number of persons in a position to take up such grants was limited, it happened that one *tarafdar* acquired clearances in many parts of the district. And such taluks or collections of taluks changed hands from time to time by sales, so that the most powerful men got in time a large number of them into their hands. It was with these *tarafdars* or zamindars that the Permanent Settlement was concluded.

The talukdars of the present day are, many of them, the direct descendants of the original reclaimers of the soil. In permanently-settled estates, the taluks are held at fixed rates of rent in perpetuity, and are heritable and transferable. Roughly speaking, the entire district is divided amongst the talukdars, most of whom cultivate personally. Where, however, the holding is of any size, or where a person owns more than one, a portion is reserved as *nij-jote* (home farm), and the rest is leased to cultivators, locally called *etmamdars*. An *etmam* is like a taluk, *quaimi*, and the rent is not theoretically subject to increase; but, in practice, if a talukdar is persuaded by a new auction purchaser or otherwise to consent to some small increase, he generally manages to get some corresponding rise in the rent payable by his *etmamdar*. The *etmamdar* is generally a cultivator, but he enjoys the same power as the talukdar of granting permanent leases to under-raiyats. Hence the creation of "*dar-etmams* and *quaimi raiyati* leases.

The term *noabad* has long been used in Chittagong to denote lands in which the proprietary interest vests in the State, that is to say, all lands which have not been permanently settled. Regulation III of 1828 declared the absolute right of the Government to these *noabad* lands. They were assessed with revenue, and as new lands were brought under cultivation, fresh assessments were made. Between the years 1841 and 1848, all the *noabad* lands were surveyed, whether held by the squatters or encroached upon by the *tarafdars*. The lands of the estates formed in 1793 were defined and separated, and the *noabad* lands were made separate taluks; but a large number was placed directly under the Collector and put under *khas* management. The *noabad* talukdars are permanent tenure-holders within the meaning of the Bengal Tenancy Act, holding under Government as proprietors, but their revenue is subject to re-adjustment at each resettlement. The last settlement was concluded in 1899 for terms expiring in 1924 and 1925 A.D.

187. The Rent Commission described the *jotes* of Rangpur as follows:— Jotes and Jotedars in Rangpur.

The *raiyat*, who holds direct from the zamindar, is called a *jotedar*, and his holding is a *jote*, whatever its size, which may and does vary from one paying a rent of one rupee to one of which the rent is half a lakh. The large majority of *jotedars* have small holdings and are raiyats proper, cultivating their lands either by their own or hired labour or on the system of *adhiari* or halves. But a large number of *jotedars* have raiyats under them, who are called either *chukanidars* or *kurfa rajas*. The *chukanidars*, too, have often tenants under them, and in some cases, especially in the larger jotes, there are four or more degrees before we get to the actual

cultivator. *Jotes* are saleable, quite irrespective of the term during which they have been held, whether *jotes* held direct from the zamindar or *chukani jotes* which are held from a *jotedar*. If a man gets a *jote* to-day he can legally transfer it by sale to-morrow. Such sales of *jotes* by registered deed or on decree of Court are of daily occurrence.

Jotedars, Chukanidars, etc., in Jalpaiguri.

188. There is a strong resemblance between the interests in land in Rangpur and those found in the Western Duars of Jalpaiguri. A *jotedar* there is a person who holds lands directly under Government. His holding is called a *jote*. He is a tenant with a heritable and transferable title in his holding, vested in him by his lease and by the fact of possession, with the power to transmit his title to those to whom he sublets ; he has the right to one re-settlement of the land included in his *jote* on the expiry of the term of the existing settlement, but subject to an increase of rent, should Government see fit to enhance. His title to possession of the *jote* is, however, always subject to the superior right of Government as proprietor to resume any portion required for public or other purposes, a proportionate abatement being made in the rental, and compensation allowed for any permanent improvements. The tenant immediately below the *jotedar* is the *chukanidar* or *mulandar*. The tenancy is heritable and transferable, and the rent is liable to variation at the period of resettlement. The tenant is not allowed under the provisions of the *jotedar's* lease to sublet the whole or any portion of his tenancy under pain of immediate forfeiture ; but he is permitted to employ *adhiars*. A *chukanidar* cannot be ousted so long as he pays his rent, except by order of a competent court notwithstanding the fact that he may not have been twelve years on a *jote*. The *adhiar* cultivates the land and pays a portion of the produce as rent. He is often a migratory alien. The rights and obligations of *jotedars*, *chukanidars* and *adhiars* in the Jalpaiguri district outside of the Western Duars, and in Rangpur, are regulated by the ordinary provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Tenures in Backergung.

189. Backergunge is famous for the number of its under-tenures. In some parts of the district as many as eighteen interests in the land are found to exist inferior to that of the zamindar proprietor. These are (*1*) *taluk*, (*2*) *nim taluk*, (*3*) *osat taluk*, (*4*) *dar patni* and *osat taluk*, (*5*) *nim osat taluk*, (*6*) *dar nim osat taluk*, (*7*) *miras jiara*, (*8*) *etman*, (*9*) *mudafat*, (*10*) *howla* or *zimba*, (*11*) *osat howla*, (*12*) *nim howla*, (*13*) *osat nim howla*, (*14*) *dar osat nim howla*, (*15*) *raiyat*, (*16*) *nim raiyat*, (*17*) *osat nim raiyat*, and (*18*) *dar osat nim raiyat*. In other parts are also found tenures such as *shamilat taluks* and raiyati interests like *miras karsha* and *kaim karsha*. The origin of most of these *taluks* and *howlas* appears to have been a grant of a considerable tract of waste land, upon favourable terms as to rent, to some one who undertook to bring it under cultivation. The land was made over to the charge (hence the name *howla*) of the grantee for the purpose of reclamation. If the grant was more than he could cultivate himself, he would sublet a portion, so creating tenures subordinate to his own. Such a system once begun very naturally extended, until the existing state of things has been arrived at. But it must not be supposed that the number of persons having interest in the land is equal to the number of those interests. It often happens that one and the same person holds three or four classes of rights in the same piece of ground. Thus the same person may be *zamindar*, *talukdar*, *howladar* and even *karshadar*. The position is again complicated by the introduction of the *zimma* or *zimba* system. When a tenure-holder or raiyat finds himself unable to cope with his landlord, he transfers his allegiance to a third paty ; or, in other words, when he is oppressed by his landlord, he seeks the protection (*zimma*) of some one else who is stronger. To him he sells his interests in the land and buys back from him a subordinate interest. He thus makes the *zimbadar* responsible to the real landlord for the rent and he himself escapes the petty tyranny and exactions to which he was subject from that landlord. This system is especially common in estates whose proprietors are numerous : the tenure-holder finds himself in difficulties with so many masters and prefers to make one of them (generally the strongest) his *zimbadar*.

All tenures of whatever grade are heritable, transferable and permanent, with the exception of a few modern creations with written contracts containing contrary conditions. By the general custom in the district the rent

of all tenures in the district is presumed to be fixed unless the contrary is proved. The number of subordinate tenures in this district is about half a million, of which the vast majority were recorded in the record-of-rights recently prepared as held at fixed rent.

The aimas and mandali jotes or tenures of Midnapore.

190. The *aimas* of Midnapore are creations subsequent to the Permanent Settlement. They are grants made by the proprietor at a low rent for the purpose of bringing jungle land under cultivation. They exist mostly in the estate of Balarampur which was purchased by Government in 1837 at a sale for arrears of revenue. The *aimadars* were not *bonâ fide* cultivators, but mostly capitalists who took the *aimas* as a speculation. As a rule, the individual *aima* exceeded 1,000 bighas in area. In 1875, when the estate came under resettlement, the Settlement Officer, Mr. Price, treated the *aimadars* as tenure-holders and settled fair rents for the actual cultivating raiyats under the *aimadars* giving them the status of occupancy raiyats. Most of the *aimadars* accepted this, but one of them brought a civil suit claiming to be an occupancy raiyat and obtained a decree to this effect from the Court. In view of this the settlement was revised, but the question of the status of the *aimadars* was not clearly settled. On the estate again coming under settlement in 1904, the Board of Revenue, on full consideration, declared that the *aimadars* were tenure-holders as defined by the Bengal Tenancy Act. The *aimadars* contested this finding in the Civil Courts, claiming to be occupancy raiyats, and the matter is now pending in appeal in the High Court.

In parts of Midnapore bordering on the Jungle Mahals there is a class of tenure-holders termed *mandals*. They were originally substantial raiyats, or *abadkars*, who undertook to bring a tract of waste land under cultivation, paying the zamindar a stipulated sum as rent. These *abadkars* then reclaimed the land either themselves, or with the help of other raiyats whom they induced to settle under them; established a village, to which they usually gave their name; and, being heads of the settlements, were called *mandals* or head-men. The zamindar and the *mandal* from time to time readjust the terms of their bargain, but the former never interferes between the latter and his under-tenants. In the settlement proceedings of 1839 these *mandals* were declared to have only the rights of *sthani* or *khudkasht* raiyats, and not to be entitled to any *munafa* or profit, but, though not exactly recognized as talukdars, they gradually acquired rights superior to those of ordinary *khudkasht* raiyats; and as they were left to make their own terms with the raiyats settled by them, they must have had a very considerable profit besides what they obtained from any land cultivated by themselves. Their mandali right became transferable by custom, and when at settlement they came into immediate contact with Government, though not recognized as regular talukdars, they were held entitled to consideration. The Government in settlement proceedings deducted 15 per cent. from the gross *jama* in their favour, and after some demur they accepted this as a sufficient recognition of their status.

Upanchaki tenures of Rangpur.

191. In Rangpur a permanent tenure is found which is called "Upanchaki." It is a collective name for lands granted for religious services under the well-known names of *debattar nirnal*, *chiragi*, etc. A nominal quit-rent is paid for it. It is hereditary and transferable.

Khamar or private lands of landlords.

192. The *khamar* or *nij-jote* of a zamindar is the land reserved by him for the subsistence of himself and his family. He either cultivates it himself by means of hired labour or leases it to tenants on short leases. No right of occupancy can be acquired in such land if it is held on a lease from year to year or on a lease for a term of years. Many tenure-holders also hold *khamar* lands in practice but these are not recognized by the law as such.

Khanabari tenures.

193. Non-agricultural tenures, which are granted for building purposes to traders, artisans and other non-agricultural classes of the community and go by the name of *khanabari* tenures, are numerous in the populous district of the 24-Parganas.

Special tenures of Baranagar and Panchannogram.

194. In the vicinity of Calcutta, in Baranagar and Panchannogram there are a large number of permanent tenures of very old standing, which are saleable and heritable, the holders paying rent to Government at fixed rates.

Service tenures or holdings, chaukidari and chakran.

195. Besides the tenures described in the preceding paragraphs, derived either from ancient rights, or created to relieve the zamindar of the trouble and risk of direct management, or of the labour and expenditure required for reclaiming waste lands, there are various service (*jagir*) tenures, of which the *chaukidari chakran*, *thanadari* or *phanridari chakran*, *patwari jagirs* and *ghatwali* tenures are the most important. The *paikan jagirs* of Midnapore are also noticeable.

Before the advent of the British, the zamindars not only defended the country against foreign enemies with armed retainers, but also administered the law and maintained peace and order with a large force of rural police known as *thanadars* or *phanridars*, *chaukidars*, *paiks*, *etc.*, who helped in protecting the property of the zamindar, in collecting his revenue and in doing other services personal to the zamindar. All these officers were at that time servants of the zamindar appointed and removed by him, and often remunerated by grants of land rent-free or at a quit-rent in consideration of their services. The lands so enjoyed were called *chakran* or service lands. The effect of the Decennial Settlement was to divide them into two classes—(1) *thanaaari* lands, which, by Regulation I of 1793, section 8, clause 4, were made resumable by the Government; (2) all other *chakran* lands, which by Regulation VIII of 1793, section 41, were, whether held by public officers or private servants in lieu of wages, to be annexed to the *malguzari* lands and declared responsible for the public revenue assessed on the whole estate. A service tenure, created for the performances of services, private or personal to the zamindar, may be resumed by him when the services are no longer required, or when the grantee of the tenure refuses to perform them. A zamindar is, however, not entitled to resume when the grant is for services of a public nature. The duty of protection having now entirely devolved on Government, the policy at present is to resume and assess all such lands as are resumable, and, accordingly, they are being converted—usually by amicable arrangement—into ordinary tenures.

The *chaukidari chakran* tenures are described and dealt with in Act VI (B.C.) of 1870, and land ceases to be *chaukidari chakran* when Government transfers it to the zamindar.

The *thanadari*, or *phanridari*, tenures of Hooghly have been dealt with under special rules.

The *naikan jagirs* of Midnapore were, in some instances, resumed, but were afterwards abandoned in favour of the zamindars. The latter are responsible to Government for the efficient service of the *paiks*, who are appointed and removed by them, preference being given to heirs of old incumbents.

Ghatwali tenures.

196. *Ghatwali* tenures exist in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura and Burdwan. These tenures may be generally divided into two classes, that is, (1) tenures granted for a species of military service to be rendered by guarding the *ghats* or passes on the western frontiers of Bengal, and (2) tenures granted on condition of rendering police service. A small quit-rent is generally paid by the *ghatwals* through the zamindar, in addition to the service rendered. Of recent years extensive resumptions have been made of these tenures in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura on an amicable basis, the *ghatwals* being released from rendering service, and recognized as subordinate tenants with rights of occupancy, while the lands have been assessed to revenue and settled with the zamindars. The Birbhum tenures have formed the subject of legislation (Regulation XXIX of 1814 and Act V of 1859).

Revenue and rent-free tenures.

197. In addition to all the above tenures there are numerous small plots of land held revenue-free, the large majority of which were granted by former Governments, or zamindars under those Governments, as benefices or religious endowments—grants which have since been recognized and confirmed by the English Government.

Jagirs.

198. *Jagirs* were an assignment, not of the land itself, but of the revenue to which the State was entitled. The revenue was in some cases entirely remitted, while in others a quit-rent was retained. These *jagirs* were usually hereditary. They were often granted by former Governments to favourites of the Crown. If granted for the maintenance of zamindars and their

families, they were called *nankar jagirs*. They are still granted by the British Government for political services.

Lakhiraj tenures.

199. *Lakhiraj* tenures are of two kinds—*bahali*, that is, confirmed, and *bazyajti*, that is, resumed and assessed at favourable rents. *Bahali lakhiraj* tennres are again subdivided into *badshashi* (royal) and *hukumi* (granted by officials). The former, with their sub-tenures, are known by various names, such as *altamaha*, *aima*, and *madadmash*, while the latter are distinguished by such names as *brahmottar*, *debottar*, *mahattran*, etc. The owners of the *bahali lakhiraj* tenures, although exempted from paying any revenue, are held liable to pay local cesses of general application.

The principles according to which the British Government dealt with these *jagirs* and *lakhiraj* tenures are given under the head "Resumption Proceedings," at the beginning of this section.

Revenue-free tenures created by the British Government fall under two heads, that is—

(1) railway and other lands sold in fee simple, and
(2) petty estates, the revenue of which has been allowed to be redeemed by the payment of their capitalized values.

Following the example of former Governments in creating revenue-free tenures, the zamindars also have created many rent-free tenures on their estates in favour of Brahmans for religious and other purposes, to relatives and dependents for maintenance, and to servants for service. These are not recognized by the Government.

Raiyati tenures.

200. Subinfeudation ends with the cultivator for whose benefit the Bengal Tenancy Act was primarily passed. Raiyats were formerly divided into two classes, *khudkasht* (resident) and *paikasht* (non-resident). The Bengal Tenancy Act abolishes this distinction, defines the raiyat as primarily a cultivator and divides them into raiyats at fixed rates of rent, settled raiyats, occupancy raiyats and non-occupancy raiyats. Settled raiyats are those who have held land continuously in a village for 12 years and they have an occupancy right in all the land which they hold. The Bengal Tenancy Act also recognizes a class of under-raiyats but assumes them to be entertained by the raiyat merely for a period. At the time the Bengal Tenancy Act was passed, most cultivators would have been classified as raiyats under the Act. This is now very far from being the case. In the Dacca Division and elsewhere, the ambition of many raiyats is to convert themselves into middlemen. The land is sublet and the actual cultivator is either a yearly tenant on the *metayer* system or a permanent under-raiyat at a high rent. In either case he loses the protection of the Tenancy Act, which made no provision for such an improvement in the position of the raiyat, whom it protected. As yet the tendency has not gone very far; but it has been noticeable and increasing in every district for which a record of rights has been prepared.

The Bengal Tenancy Act protects raiyats from eviction except by the Civil Court on a decree for arrears of rent, and places limits on the enhancement of rent. As a result rents are not generally excessive in Bengal. The under-raiyat is not protected against eviction, and the protection afforded against excessive rental has been rendered nugatory in the law courts.

There are some special classes of raiyats. Those who pay rent in kind are usually known as *bargadar* or *adhiar* and are locally, although not legally, regarded as tenants-at-will. The landlord sometimes supplies the seed, but rarely any further assistance. Under the Bengal Tenancy Act they are tenants, although the *jotedars* in the Rajshahi Division claim them to be hired servants.

In Nadia, Jessore, Murshidabad and Pabna many tenancies are held on the *utbandi* system, according to which the raiyats pay rents on the lands actually cultivated subject to measurement. The system is recognised by the Tenancy Act and raiyats cannot acquire rights of occupancy in any *utbandi* field until they have cultivated that field continuously for 12 years. In *bil* areas there is also a system of assessing rent at a village rate on the area in each holding which is under cultivation. This system arises out of the varying extent to which the *bil* annually dries up and permits cultivation.

The portentous growth of subinfeudation is as striking amongst cultivators as amongst middlemen in Bengal. In Backergunge and Faridpur and elsewhere four grades of under-raiyats have been found usually in insignificant plots of land. There is no doubt that the Bengali villager has a passion to sublet and be a landlord.

SYSTEM OF SURVEY.

Demarcation or thakbast Survey.

201. Almost the whole of the Presidency has been surveyed so as to show the boundaries of each village and estate ; but till recently there was no field measurement except in a few limited tracts. The boundary survey was in two parts—(1) the Thakbast Survey and (2) the Revenue Survey. The Thakbast Survey preceded the Revenue Survey by a year and was made by a demarcation department, whose business it was to define the boundaries of villages and estates and to make a compass-and-chain survey of them. The main object of this *mahalwar* survey was to secure the existing revenue by determining the boundaries of estates (*mahals*), each of which is hypothecated for a certain amount of revenue. Maps were prepared from this survey for the permanently-settled tracts of the province ; the ordinary scale is 16 inches to the mile.

The maps prepared before 1850 were usually very rough and often mere eye sketches, which do not show the boundaries between estates within the village. Maps prepared after 1850 are prepared to scale and show the boundaries of estates within the village. Where these estates are numerous as in the Dacca and Presidency Divisions, the maps are often almost cadastral in their appearance. These maps vary greatly in quality. The fitting of the estate *chaks* within the village boundary is at the best an approximation, while the village boundary itself though exactly surveyed has not always been accurately mapped.

The Revenue or village Survey.

202. The demarcation was followed by a professional survey, with the object of making a scientific survey of the village boundaries and accounting for each acre of land and preparing a map (usually on the scale of 4 inches to the mile), showing the geographical and topographical features of the country. The whole of the work, both of the demarcation and the professional survey, was carried out at the expense of Government although the Government derived no additional revenue and no direct advantage therefrom. The surveyors, in making the survey of the village boundaries, were guided by the marks put up at the time of demarcation at every bend and turn of the boundary. Unfortunately, there were no permanent marks round the boundaries of the villages or estates in Bengal, and no provision then existed for compelling landholders to set them up and keep them in order. The consequence has been that the marks have been obliterated and the use of the survey has for practical purpose been greatly impaired.

This survey which is known as the Revenue Survey is still the authoritative survey in the Province. It will in time be replaced by the Cadastral Surveys ; but until then it forms the basis of all topographical maps, while it defines village boundaries and all notifications of jurisdiction are framed by reference to it. It began in this Province in 1835 and was only completed in 1878.

Other professional surveys.

203. There have been in addition some special surveys made by professional agency in the Province. The chief of these was the Diara survey, which was undertaken in order to show the changes created by fluvial action on the banks of the Ganges and Brahmaputra. The first of these surveys in the Rajshahi Division covered the Ganges as far as Kushtia in 1871-1872. The work was resumed in the Dacca Division in 1879-1880 and proceeded as far as Bandarkhola in Faridpur. In 1880-1881 the Jamuna (or Brahmaputra) was also surveyed from Goalundo for 20 miles upstream to Bangaon (a great trigonometrical station) and in 1881-1882 a survey was made of a narrow strip of land on both sides of the Hooghly river from the northern boundary of the 24-Parganas to the mouth of the river. The professional agency was then discarded and further surveys on these rivers as far as the sea were carried out by civil agency.

A revision survey in Midnapore was completed in 1886 which covered six entire parganas and demarcated 14,425 villages.

A survey of the town of Calcutta was made in 1886 to 1894 under a Special Act (I of 1887) of the Bengal Council. It was made in the interests of both Government and the Municipality.

A topographical survey of the Sundarbans was made in 1905-1908 for the purpose of preparing an accurate and authoritative map of the Reserved forests. The area surveyed was 1,688 square miles in the 24-Parganas and 2,264 square miles in Khulna.

A cadastral or field-to-field survey of the remainder of the Presidency on a scale of 16-inch to the mile is now in process of preparation. The unit of work is the district, and four parties are working concurrently in four districts. This survey is based on a professional traverse survey and is used in the compilation of the new atlas of India.

SYSTEM OF SETTLEMENT.

204. In Bengal the greater part of the area has been settled in perpetuity, and no fiscal advantage can be obtained from settlement proceedings. There are, however, tracts which are not under permanent settlement, in which the revenue may be periodically revised. These tracts consist of waste lands such as the Sundarbans, which were not included in the permanent settlement, acquisitions by conquest or treaty since the time of the permanent settlement such as Darjeeling and the Western Duars, islands thrown up since the permanent settlement in large and navigable rivers, estates escheated or forfeited to Government or purchased by Government at sales for arrears of revenue. In all these tracts the proprietary right vests in Government, and unless that right has been expressly alienated, they form what are technically called "Government estates." In addition, there are other lands of which the revenue has not been permanently settled, but which belong to private proprietors and not to Government. The chief of these are alluvial accretions subsequent to the permanent settlement, and those portions of the Government estates in which Government has alienated the proprietary right. These are technically known as "temporarily-settled private estates."

205. The conditions of land tenure in the Government estates are very diverse. In some Government deals direct with the cultivators, in others either by accident or by design it deals with small middlemen, in others again permanent lessees have acquired permanent rights over the whole or large portions of an estate and are proprietors in everything except the name. This diversity is due to the long conflict between two rival theories regarding the disposal and management of Government estates. One theory was an inheritance from the policy of the permanent settlement, and aimed at freeing Government from all concern in the management of land by the establishment of a class of land-owners on the English model, whose rights in their property should be absolute subject to the payment of a revenue fixed in perpetuity. The other theory advocated that Government should "stand forth as dewan" and deal direct with the cultivators in those parts of the province in which the absence of a permanent settlement made it still possible. Government estates.

The general principles now in force are in favour of direct management of Government estates and have been thus described in the Report on the Land System in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa of 1882-1883 :—

"Estates coming into the hands of Government were originally either permanently settled or sold outright. This policy was changed in 1871, in which year it was ordered that temporary settlements only should be allowed, and that, where sales appeared to be expedient, the estates should be first settled for terms of years and then sold subject to a revision of the Government revenue on the expiration of the terms of settlement.

The above procedure, however, seemed to be of questionable legality, and in 1875 the Government, at the suggestion of the Board of Revenue, ruled that an estate should be considered as suitable for direct management—

(1) if it was of sufficient extent and cultivation to support a tahsildari establishment ;

(2) if, though not yielding a revenue sufficient to cover such expense, there was a reasonable expectation that its gross rent could be increased by improvement, extended cultivation or otherwise to that amount ;

(3) if, though not sufficient in extent or rental alone to find employment, or funds, for a separate establishment, it was so situated as to be capable of being incorporated with one or more similar Government estates, so as to form a compact tahsildari circle ;

and that smaller insolated estates might still be retained under direct management, if their situation near the headquarters of a district or a subdivision was such as to allow of their proper supervision by the Government officers. Smaller estates, not admitting of such supervision, were to be sold after survey and settlement, in which the rights of all classes of cultivators were to be recorded, and the estates so sold were to be transferred to their new proprietors with the revenue fixed in perpetuity.

These orders were somewhat relaxed in 1895, and Government estates are now sold or retained on the following principles :—

(*a*) large compact estates, capable of supporting a tahsildari establishment, and of being efficiently managed, or which have not been fully developed, are to be retained ;

(*b*) town lands, or lands in urban tracts, in which the revenue is likely to increase shortly, or which may be required by Government hereafter, and which are easy to manage, are not to be sold ;

(*c*) estates largely subject to alluvion or diluvion are to be retained ;

(*d*) petty estates, and estates which are scattered or fully developed, should be sold ;

(*e*) Government shares in joint undivided estates should be sold ;

(*f*) the estates in which the cost of management is out of proportion to the demand should be sold.

With regard to the terms on which estates should be sold, the Board proposed, in accordance with the Government orders of 1886, that—

(1) estates which pay a rent or revenue of Re. 1 or less should be sold revenue free, at an upset price of ten times the rent or revenue ; and

(2) estates paying more than Re. 1 as rent should ordinarily be sold at an upset price of twice the rent, at a revenue fixed in perpetuity equal to the amount of the present rent.

Subject to these conditions it is now the rule that Government estates should, as far as possible, be retained under direct management, so that the officers of Government may be enabled to gain a practical knowledge of the progress of agriculture, of the extent to which the productive powers of the land have been developed, and of the increased money value of the produce. It is hoped that the result will be a system of enlightened management which will become a model for imitation by zamindars throughout the province.

The modes of management are—

(1) by officers of Government, such as Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors, kanungos and nazirs, as part of their ordinary work, without extra remuneration ;

(2) by special managers, with the assistance of suitable collecting establishments ;

(3) by ordinary tahsildari establishments, working under the Collector, Deputy Collector or Sub-Deputy Collector, as the case may be ;

(4) by special tahsildari establishments under the direct supervision of the Collector.

Of these, the system adopted in Chittagong, corresponding to the tahsildari system of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, is the most deserving of notice. The chief features of the scheme, which was devised after much consideration and discussion by Government and the Board, and which eventually received the approval of the Secretary of State, are as follows :— The *noabad taluks*, numbering about 35,000, and *iotes* which are scattered all over the district, are parcelled out into five circles. The division is adopted with reference to geographical limits and facility of communication by land and water. The circles are, therefore, of unequal proportions. Each circle is in the charge of a khas tahsildar who is either a Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collector. At present they are employed in the collection of rent, disposal of certificate and *noabad taluk* land registration cases, and general management work. Their services can also be utilized for general administrative work in the district. Management under a system of this kind results not merely in strengthening the hold of Government over the district, but also in effecting a large saving of expenditure, since no outsider would consent to manage these estates for what it now costs Government.

The Settlement Regulations in khas mahal and temporarily-settled estates.

206. The settlement and adjustment of rent of these temporarily-settled estates, whether Government or private, were regulated by the procedure laid down in Regulation VII, 1822. The main object of the Regulation was to "revise, through the agency of the Collectors or Settlement Officers, the *jama* payable to Government after a full enquiry into, and careful settlement of, the rights and interests of all classes connected with the land," but the requirements laid down by this Regulation were never carried out satisfactorily. Considerable difficulty was felt in "ascertaining the amount of the *jama* payable by raiyats in any *mahal* under settlement on an ascertainment of the quality and value of actual produce, or on a comparison between the cost of production and the value of produce." Accordingly, by Regulation IX of 1833, the principle of assessment, based on customary rent, was adopted. The basis of calculation was the rate of the rent actually paid by a large class of tenants, or the rent paid for land of similar description and under similar circumstances in places adjacent. But the principle was not long adhered to, and the value and capabilities of land began again to be taken into consideration since 1837.

Although these Regulations are still in force, they are now used only for the special purpose of settling the revenue of proprietors in temporarily-settled private estates. For other purposes they are in modern days inadequate, as they do not permit of the fixing of fair rents for tenants, unless by agreement. The rents of tenants are now periodically revised under the provisions of Chapter X of the Tenancy Act, which require as an indispensable preliminary a survey and a record-of-rights and then permit the determination of rents which shall be binding on all classes of tenants. The term of settlement varies. Under the Tenancy Act it cannot be less than 15 years in the case of occupancy and 5 years in the case of non-occupancy raiyats. The revenue of a private proprietor in a temporarily-settled estate is fixed by rule at 30 per cent. of the assets of the estate.

In revising the land revenue of the temporarily-settled area, whether Government estates or temporarily-settled private estates, the following are the principles in force :—

I.—No estate of any kind (save those described in the next following clause) is to be settled in perpetuity without the express sanction of Government in each case, unless the holders have a statutory right to such settlement.

II.—Very petty estates which, though well cultivated, pay less than one rupee land revenue per annum may be sold revenue free for ever, being put up at an upset price of ten times the annual *jama*, or sold by special bargain to the cultivator in possession at not less than the above rate.

III.—Alluvial accretions to private estates should be settled separately for a term of years, each accretion with the estate-holder to whom it may belong.

IV.—No settlement or resettlement should be concluded without first making a survey or revision of survey and a complete record-of-rights of the whole estate.

V.—Ordinarily Government estates should, as existing leases or other arrangements fall in, be settled for a long term of years (*a*) with the people on the ground, tenure-holders or village headmen, or raiyats where this can be done, or (*b*) with a farmer, but this only in very exceptional cases.

VI.—Until the survey and record-of-rights necessary to a resettlement can be completed, existing leases may be extended from year to year.

Grant for the management and improvement of Government estates.

207. An annual allotment of 12 per cent. of the collections in Government estates is made by the Government for management and improvement of such estates, and, under present arrangements, is distributed as follows :— 1 per cent. is given to the Director of Public Instruction for purposes of education in or near the estates ; 1½ per cent. is made over to the District Boards for roads and communications ; and 9½ per cent. is allotted to the Board of Revenue for (*a*) management proper and (*b*) agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements in the estates. A further grant, originally intended for public works of an agricultural nature, is made annually to the Board of Revenue which is utilized in improvements generally.

In a few districts the temporarily-settled area is sufficiently large to make the principles of its settlement and revision a matter of importance. The chief districts are Chittagong, the Western Duars in Jalpaiguri and the Sundarbans.

Chittagong.

208. The occupied lands of the Chittagong district were first measured in 1764. The assessments upon the area (with the exception of Jainagar estate) thus ascertained were declared permanent by Regulation I of 1793. In 1797 it was discovered that the owners of a large estate had attempted, by a forged deed, to usurp possession of all lands excluded from the original measurement. The upshot of the long correspondence and litigation which followed, extending over no less than 40 years, was a regular temporary settlement of all the cultivated lands of Chittagong not already permanently settled.

The first step was an exact definition of all the lands to which the zamindars were entitled by virtue of the measurement of 1764 and the terms of the permanent settlement ; as also of all revenue-free tenures, whether valid or invalid. The remainder was considered as *noabad* land. The expression *noabad* properly means newly cultivated land. In Chittagong it means all land not measured in the original mesurement of 1764, or, in other words, all land which was lying waste and in nobody's possession at the time of the measurement. This land is the property of Government. In the settlement of 1848, concluded by Sir Henry Ricketts, every *noabad* holding was made into a separate tenure or taluk and assessed without reference to any permanently-settled land which might be held along with it. The maximum rate of assessment was Rs. 2-4-6 an acre. This rate was reduced wherever circumstances made a lighter assessment necessary. The average rate on the 286,095 acres assessed (cultivation and waste together) was Re. 0-11-3 per acre, giving a total revenue of Rs. 2,00,826. At the time of settlement the Government demand was estimated to be equivalent to 16 per cent. on the value of the gross produce.

At the same time lakhiraj or revenue-free tenures were investigated, and lands held on invalid tenures were resumed. Their assessment amounted to only Rs. 75,605. Certain other lakhiraj lands had been compounded for at Re. 1-1-9 per acre, subsequently reduced to Re. 0-13-9 per acre, and these yielded Rs. 13,708. The area of all lakhiraj lands, resumed and revenue-free, including waste, was 111,223 acres. Adding together the assessments imposed on *noabad* and lakhiraj lands, the total increase to the revenue of the district, effected by the settlement of Sir Henry Ricketts, would appear to have been Rs. 2,90,169. No less than 89,389 separate settlements were made, 79,586 of which related to new mahals, lakhiraj or *noabad*, mostly of minute size, and intermingled with each other and with permanently-

settled lands in a most complicated manner. On the introduction of the settlement, leases were given to "circle farmers," who were to receive a commission on the revenue collected by them from the petty estates of their circles; but this, on the expiry of the terms, was replaced by a system of khas management.

The *noabad* holdings, in which the proportion of jungle was very small or *nil*, were settled for 50 years; while those in which the proportion of jungle was considerable were settled for 25 years only. On the expiry of this term, the resettlement of these taluks was undertaken in 1875. The former Government revenue of these 25-year taluks had been Rs. 43,898, and this was raised by the new settlement to Rs. 1,41,801. The cost of the operations was 3½ lakhs of rupees, and the proceedings occupied seven years in completion. The term of resettlement of these 25-year taluks was fixed so as to terminatein 1898, that being the year in which the settlement of the 50-year *noabad* taluks expired.

The previous settlement of the lands in old Thana Ramu having expired, a survey and record-of-rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act was begun in 1888. At first merely Government lands were dealt with, but subsequently all the lands in the thana were included within the scheme. During the assessment in this area the status of a *noabad* talukdar was determined to be that of a tenure-holder.

With a view to provide for the re-adjustment of the Government revenue on the expiry of the existing settlements, and also to remove the uncertainty regarding boundaries which existed in private estates, notifications under section 101 (1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act dealing with the rest of the district of Chittagong, thana by thana, with the exception of the permanently-settled lands in the island of Maiskhal, were issued on various dates beginning from 1889. The proceedings thereby instituted were completed throughout the district in 1898, the cost incurred being Rs. 16,16,204. The total area of the district is 2,492 square miles, of which 2,003 square miles were surveyed, the remainder consisting of forests, waste land lots and one large permanently-settled estate. The revenue of the temporarily-settled portion of the district, not including the estate Noabad Taraf Joynarayan Ghosal, was increased from Rs. 3,85,210 to Rs. 6,00,537. Of the gross increase of revenue amounting to Rs. 2,16,793 (not deducting decreases), Rs. 1,50,019 were obtained from talukdars, Rs. 3,405 from farmers and Rs. 63,369 from raiyats paying rent direct to Government. The following statement exhibits the increase in rent-rates per acre produced by the settlement :—

	Former rate.	New rate.
	Rs. A.	Rs. A.
Talukdars (tenure-holders)	2 0	2 13
Ijaradars (farmers)	1 12	2 9
Under-tenure-holders	3 4	3 9
Settled raiyats	4 14	5 0
Occupancy raiyats	2 15	3 2
Non-occupancy raiyats	2 11	2 12
Under-raiyats	5 8	5 13

The settlement was confirmed by the Government of India for a period of thirty years.

The *noabad* talukdars were the most important class of tenants found upon the Government estates. They are tenure-holders, who hold directly under the Government as landlord for terms of years. At the expiry of such term, the talukdar is entitled to resettlement of such portion of his taluk as is cultivated, and at such rent as Government may fix. The total number of taluks settled during the recent operations was 34,666. Of these, 32,601 taluks had been settled in or about 1848 for terms of 50 years, 1,873 had been settled at the same time for shorter terms and re-settled in 1882, while 192 were new taluks which were created during the recent settlement. The method followed in settling the rents of these taluks was to ascertain the rental of their raiyats, and, after adding to this sum the annual rent valuation of any lands in the direct occupation of the talukdar, to fix the new rent at such percentage of these assets as seemed equitable. In the case of 32,601

taluks first mentioned the assets were fixed at Rs. 4,86,031, and the rents of the talukdars were settled at Rs. 2,86,353. The balance of Rs. 1,99,678, or 41 per cent. of the assets, represents the profit left to the talukdars. In numerous instances, however, a portion of these profits was intercepted by under-tenure-holders, who occupied the position of middlemen between the talukdar and the actual cultivators. The rents of all these under-tenure-holders were settled, as in the case of the talukdars, at a percentage of the assets of the under-tenure, calculated as above described. If, then, a talukdar had sublet his entire taluk to an under-tenure-holder, who in his turn had sublet to raiyats for an aggregate rental of Rs. 100, the under-tenure-holder's right might be settled at Rs. 85 and the talukdar's at Rs. 60. In that case the actual profit which would reach the talukdar would be Rs. 25. As the result of the settlement in the case of these 32,601 talukdars, the talukdars actually receive Rs. 4,44,230, the balance of Rs. 41,801 being absorbed by under-tenure-holders. The rents of farmers were fixed on the same principles. The rents of raiyats were but little enhanced, though additional rents were imposed on increased areas. In the case of large enhancements, liberal terms were allowed, the rents being gradually enhanced. The result of the settlement was to enhance the rents of talukdars by 65 per cent., of farmers by 10 per cent., of under-tenure-holders by 33 per cent., of settled raiyats by 17 per cent., of occupancy raiyats by 7 per cent. and of under-raiyats by 10 per cent.

Since the conclusion of this settlement, the unoccupied land still at the disposal of Government has been brought (since 1908) under examination by a system of annual "Extension" surveys, and all land ascertained to have been subsequently occupied is brought under assessment at rates fixed for each village by the Collector. The additions on this account to the revenue have amounted to Rs. 1,04,863.

Western Duars.

209. The Western Duars of Jalpaiguri were obtained by conquest from Bhutan in 1864, and the first settlement of them was made for 7 years in 1872 at a cost of Rs. 42,822, resulting in a net increase of revenue of Rs. 33,196 on a total area, including forests, etc., of about 1,636 square miles. In the course of an enquiry in 1874, during the settlement of South Maynaguri, it was found that the maps were inaccurate, the records untrustworthy, and that nothing but a revision of the whole settlement would suffice. A re-survey and settlement was, therefore, ordered at the close of 1875, and carried out at a cost of Rs. 1,16,520. The total area of the Duars was found to be 1,913 square miles, and the total rental was then fixed at Rs. 1,51,862. This sum was, however, subsequently reduced by Rs. 17,800, owing to certain errors in assessment. In 1885 it was decided that at the next settlement a more detailed examination of all the facts relating to each holding should be made.

The previous settlement having expired in 1890, a fresh settlement was concluded under the provisions of the Bhutan Duars Act, XVI of 1869. Work had been taken up in 1888 and it was completed in 1895. The tract measures 1,210 square miles, exclusive of tea lands and forest lands which were not dealt with at this settlement. Out of this area, 421 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 2 inches=1 mile, and the remaining 789 square miles were cadastrally surveyed on the 16-inch scale. The tract comprises 9,971 jotes, or blocks of land, held by tenants under the Government, 17 blocks occupied as markets, one revenue-free block, and 1,079 waste land blocks which were not assessed. The assessment of the 9,971 jotes brought an increase of Rs. 1,40,902 over the last assessment, which amounted to Rs. 2,33,999. A miscellaneous revenue is also derived from fluctuating sources, which amounted in 1893-1894 to Rs. 39,556. The total cropped area was found to be 206,838 acres, on 80 per cent. of which rice is grown. The operations cost Rs. 5,07,325, which gives an acreage charge of 11 annas 11 pies. The term of settlement was fixed at 15 years from 1893-1894. This term having now expired, a re-survey has been begun with a view to the re-adjustment of the assessment. This re-adjustment has been carried out under the procedure of Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Final orders have not as yet been passed upon the rates and systems of reassessment, but it is expected that the new revenue will come into force in 1913.

Jaipur Government estates.

210. The Jaipur estates in Bogra were surveyed and settled in 1893—1898. The aggregate area of the estates is 44 square miles, and is comprised in 153 villages. The cultivated area is 21,307 acres, of which 7,869 are twice cropped. Nearly 60 per cent. of the cropped area is occupied by rice. The rental was increased from Rs. 39,872 to Rs. 51,068, or by 28 per cent., on the ground of extension of cultivation and rise in the price of agricultural staples. The average rate of rent is Rs. 2-7-6 per acre. The settlement has been concluded for a term of 20 years. The total expenditure was Rs. 46,124 or at the rate of Re. 1-5-4 per acre.

Other settlements.

211. In addition to the areas already mentioned, many petty Government and private estates lying in Tippera, Backergunge, Faridpur, Noakhali and Rangpur have been cadastrally surveyed and settled. In the course of the district operations large areas which are not permanently settled were brought under reassessment in Backergunge, and are being brought under reassessment in Faridpur, Dacca and Mymensingh. The additions made to the revenue in Backergunge were Rs. 2,39,314, of which Rs. 93,231 were in respect of the Sundarbans. Most of the Backergunge Government estates are leased to middlemen in perpetuity, who had enhanced the rents of their tenants by contract during the currency of the previous term. In the reassessment operations these contractual rents were usually accepted as fair and equitable, and the increase in the Government revenue was obtained by the reduction of the middlemen's profits. Large areas also had been let in farm. The farms were terminated, and Government assumed direct management, sometimes accepting and sometimes varying the rates of rent which the farmer had obtained from his tenants.

The assessment of the Darjeeling Terai was carried out under the Bhutan Duars Act after a survey and settlement of 230 square miles in 1894—1898. The total cultivated area was found to be 69,000 acres, of which five-sixths was twice cropped and two-thirds was under rice. The term of the settlement is 20 years, and the rates of rent per acre, as now settled, vary from annas 4 to Rs. 2. The revenue was increased by 21½ per cent., and now stands at Rs. 1,13,222.

Surveys and settlements of private and permanently-settled areas.

212. Although in the rest of India settlement operations are connected with the revision of land revenue, in Bengal comprehensive operations have been completed and are being undertaken without any prospect of fiscal advantage. Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act made it possible for the Supreme Government to order a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights in any area, and for the Local Government to order these operations in any estate or local area in which the landlords or tenants applied, or where it was calculated to settle or avoid a dispute between landlords and tenants. As a result of this enactment a survey and a record-of-rights have been prepared for a large number of private estates in every district at the expense of landlords and tenants. In the meantime the great success of the settlement operations in North Bihar in securing the rights and protecting the interests of the tenantry, and the ease and cheapness with which the operations were carried out, determined Government to afford the same security and protection to the cultivating classes in Bengal, and at the same time to disperse the great confusion which—as has been explained—surrounds the tenure of land in Bengal. Such operations have been carried out in the permanently-settled portions of the district of Chittagong (1888—1898), in Chakla Roshanabad in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali (1892—1900) and in the district of Backergunge (1899—1903). They have been undertaken also in the districts of Faridpur (1904), Jalpaiguri (1906), Mymensingh (1908), Dacca (1910), Rajshahi (1910) and Midnapore (1911), but have not as yet been carried to completion. In the course of the operations a map and a record-of-rights in land are prepared for every village in the district. The map shows every field and is on the scale of 16″ to one mile; the record enumerates the occupants of every field mapped, the landlords and intermediate landlords under whom they hold, the rent payable in respect of each tenancy, together with all rights and incidents attaching to the tenancy. The cost of these operations, which averages nearly Rs. 1,000 per square mile, is borne, one-fourth by the Government and three-fourths by landlords and tenants in the district. It is impossible to summarise the results of

operations at once so comprehensive and so detailed. A report is, however, published at the end of each operation, which deals exhaustively with the agrarian and tenancy conditions of the district. Such a report has been published for Chittagong and Roshanabad, and is in course of preparation for Backergunge, Faridpur and Jalpaiguri.

Surveys and settlements of new alluvial lands.

213. The surveys of Ganges alluvion and diluvion, in accordance with the provisions of Act IX of 1847, were commenced in the Patna Division about 1863, and brought to a close in the Rajshahi Division in 1871-1872. The operations were afterwards continued in the Dacca Division. The object of the law was to obviate the effects of the changes constantly going on in the banks of rivers and adjacent lands. By these changes large portions of land are often washed away—sometimes suddenly, sometimes by slow degrees—from one side of a river, while an accession of land takes place on the other side. It was thought advisable, for the security of the land revenue, that some provision should be made for allowing to a proprietor, whose estate had suffered diluvion, an abatement of revenue corresponding to the extent of his loss, and on the other hand for assessing the proprietor, whose estate had gained land, with an additional revenue proportionate to the amount of his gain. The law accordingly enacts that in districts of which a revenue survey has already been made Government may, whenever ten years may have elapsed from the date of approval of such survey, have a new survey made of lands on the banks of the rivers with a view to ascertain the extent of the changes since the last survey. Having ascertained, by inspection of the survey map, which estates have lost and which gained land, corresponding abatements from, and additions to, the revenue assessed on the estates respectively losing and gaining are to be made. This is not, however, a complete statement of the law, as no addition to the revenue can be made in respect of any area which can be proved to be a re-formation *in situ* of land previously settled in perpetuity. This qualification was laid down by the Privy Council in the famous Lopez case. As a result of that decision proprietors rarely consent to the abatement of their revenue as they thereby lose their title to the diluviated lands on re-formation.

The settlements made were formerly permanent, except when the proprietors of some of them refused to take the engagement, in which case the lands were let in farm for periods of from three to ten years; but latterly orders have been issued by Government prohibiting further permanent settlements, and temporary settlements are made.

In the course of the six years, 1877-1878 to 1882-1883, the banks of the chief rivers of Eastern Bengal, namely, the Ganges and Meghna, with their principal branches down to the Bay of Bengal, the Dhaleshwari, the Brahmaputra and the southern portion of the Jamuna, were surveyed. The total area of the tracts of the country thus surveyed in Dacca, Faridpur, Backergunge, Tippera, Noakhali and Mymensingh was 5,682·74 square miles at a total expenditure of Rs. 1,59,430. The cost per square mile of country surveyed was therefore Rs. 28-6-10. This survey was made in the same scientific manner as the survey conducted by the Revenue Survey Department, and the accuracy of the work was tested by connections made with 18 tower stations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey.

The total area of the land added to the estates since the survey of the districts, ascertained by a comparison of the new maps with those of the previous survey, was nearly 479 square miles. Out of this area, 597 estates, measuring 237 square miles, were assessed and settled under the provisions of section 6, Act IX of 1847, yielding an annual revenue of Rs. 1,18,905, including malikana. In 113 cases, 57 square miles, with a rental of Rs. 45,084, were left unassessed under orders passed in appeal by the Commissioner or the Board; 184 square miles were left unassessed as being (1) less than 10 acres, (2) accretions to temporarily-settled estates which were not liable to assessment until the settlements of the estates expired, (3) washed away between survey and settlement, and (4) included in estates sold or permanently settled by Government on a revised assessment since the first survey of the districts, and therefore not liable to reassessment. A new diara survey is now proceeding in the districts of Backergunge, Faridpur, Dacca

and Mymensingh, either following on or in conjunction with the survey and settlement operations in those districts.

Waste lands.

214 On the Himalayan slopes in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, in the *Tarai* at the foot, on the uplands behind Chittagong and in the Sundarbans, waste lands—the property of Government—exist. Prior to 1861 leasehold grants were made on varying conditions. In 1861, a new policy was introduced by Lord Canning, *i.e.*, that of disposing of the lands in fee-simple or in other words selling them revenue free.

Lord Canning's Minute of the 17th October 1861 laid down three main principles on which grants of waste lands were to be made in future. These were, *first*, that "in any case of application for such lands they shall be granted in perpetuity as a heritable and transferable property, subject to no enhancement of land revenue assessment;" *second*, that "all prospective land revenue will be redeemable at the grantee's option by a payment in full when the grant is made, or, at the grantee's option, a sum may be paid as earnest at the rate of 10 per cent., leaving the unpaid portion of the price of the grant, which will then be under hypothecation, until the price is paid in full;" and *third*, that "there shall be no condition obliging the grantee to cultivate or clear any specific portion after grant within any specific time." The minimum price for the fee-simple was fixed at Rs. 2-8 per acre, so that by paying 10 per cent. of this, or four annas per acre, a title was obtained. Moreover, many large tracts were for a merely nominal payment obtained by speculation in anticipation of measurement. A despatch from the Secretary of State subsequently required in addition to these provisions that grants should be surveyed before sale, and that all sales should be by auction to the highest bidders above a fixed upset price.

These rules were in force until 1872 when, owing to the serious abuses, which, from defects in the rules, and laxity in their administration, had been allowed to occur, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal stopped further grants under them pending their revision. In 1874 revised rules for the sale of waste lands, superseding all previous rules, were issued; but the formation of the Chief Commissionership of Assam in that year withdrew from their operation the districts in which transactions had been most frequent, and the rules failed to attract applicants in the territories left in Bengal and remained inoperative. In May 1879 they were finally withdrawn, and the only rules now in force in Bengal are those under which leases for terms of years may be granted. Waste lands capable of being leased exist in the Sundarbans, the Western Duars of Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong. The nature of these waste lands and the conditions of lease vary in different tracts, and a brief account of their more important features is given below.

Sundarbans.

215. The Sundarbans is a vast tract of forest and swamp forming the lower part of the delta of the Ganges and extending for about 170 miles along the sea face of the Bay of Bengal from the estuary of the Hooghly on the west to that of the Meghna on the east, and running inland to a distance of from 60 to 80 miles.

The first comprehensive set of rules for leases in the Sundarbans was that of 1853. These rules provided that application should be made to the Commissioner of the Sundarbans and that if, after due advertisement, more applicants than one presented themselves for a particular grant the right of settlement should be sold to the highest bidder. The main conditions of the grant were that one-fourth of the area should be permanently exempted from assessment (so as to allow for sites of houses, water channels, embankments, etc.), and that the remaining three-fourths should remain free of assessment for twenty years, and thereafter should be held at half-an-anna a bigha from the 21st to the 30th year, one anna a bigha from the 31st to the 40th year, one and-a-half annas a bigha from the 41st to the 50th year, and two annas a bigha from the 51st to the 99th year. After the 99th year, the grant was to be liable to survey and reassessment at such rate as Government might think fit, the grantee, his heirs and assigns having such rights, as to taking settlement, as are generally applicable to the owners of temporarily-settled estates. The rules provided that one-eighth of the grant should be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation by the end of the 5th year, one-fourth by the end of the 10th year, one-half by the end of the 20th year and three-fourths by the end of the 30th year. Failure to carry out this clearance

entailed forfeiture of the grant. Government reserved the right of making a survey between the 20th and 30th years to ascertain the actual area contained in the grant. Grantees of grants made under other previous rules were permitted to commute their grants into grants on the above conditions and a number of them took advantage of this option. The rules of 1853 were superseded by the several sets of fee-simple rules issued in 1861 and subsequent years, but when, in 1879, these rules were finally withdrawn, a revised set of lease rules for large and small capitalists was published in the same year.

These differed from the rules of 1853 in providing a rent-free period of only ten years, and in laying down only one clearance condition, viz., that one-eighth of the entire grant should be rendered fit for cultivation at the end of the fifth year. This condition might be enforced either by forfeiture of the grant, or by the issue of a fresh lease, omitting the remainder of the rent-free period, and requiring payment of rent at enhanced rates during the term of the grant. The rules also provided for gradually increasing rates of assessment after the expiration of the rent-free period, and for varying rates within different tracts according to the rent-paying capabilities of the land. It was further provided that there should be constantly recurring renewals of the lease on resettlement. The term of the original lease was fixed at forty years, and resettlements were to be made after periods of thirty years, maximum rates being laid down for each resettlement.

The limits, within which lands might be leased, were fixed in consultation with the Forest Department. An accurate definition of boundaries was provided for. The maximum area of grants was restricted to 5,000 bighas, the minimum being 200. Cultivation must not be scattered all over the area of the land, but was to proceed regularly through the blocks. Leases were to be sold at an upset price of Re. 1 an acre when there was only one applicant, and to the highest bidder when there were more than one. The leases conferred an occupancy right, hereditary and transferable. Survey fees were payable by the applicant at the rate of 4 annas an acre, as also a deposit of Rs. 16 for notices to objectors. Refunds and adjustments of fees deposited were permitted. Rights of way and water and other easements were reserved. The right of using all streams in any way navigable, and the use of a towpath not less than 25 feet wide on each side of every such stream, were also reserved to the public; while Government reserved to itself the right to all minerals in the land, together with rights of way and other reasonable facilities for working, getting at, and carrying away such minerals. No charge was made for timber on the land at the time it was leased, nor for any cut or burnt to effect clearances or used on the land; but a duty was levied on any exported for sale.

Amalnamas for plots of lands below 200 bighas used to be given to small settlers guaranteeing them a formal lease for 30 years if the lands were brought under cultivation within two years. The 30 years' lease allowed a rent-free term of two years with progressive rates of rent on the cultivated area, fixed with reference to rates paid, in the neighbourhood by raiyats to landholders for similar lands. If available, an area of unreclaimed land equal to the cultivated area was included in the lease, and in addition, the lessee could bring under cultivation any quantity of land adjoining his holding which he might find *bonâ fide* unoccupied. The holding was liable to measurement every five years, and all cultivated land in excess of the area originally assessed could be assessed at the same rate. After 30 years renewed leases could be given for 30-year periods, and rates of assessment could be adjusted at each renewal with reference to rates then prevailing in the neighbourhood. The tenure was heritable and transferable, provided that notice of transfer was given to the Sundarbans' Commissioner within one month, and no holding was to be divided without his permission. No charge was made for wood and timber on the grant, nor for any cut or burnt in making clearances, or used on the land; but a duty was levied on any exported for sale.

These rules did not work well. Experience showed that the system led to the growth of an undesirable class of land-speculators and middle men, and to the grinding down of the actual cultivators by excessive rents. Land-jobbers and speculators obtained leases for the purpose of reselling them. In

order to recoup his initial outlay, the original lessee often sublet to smaller lessees in return for cash payments, and the same process was carried on lower down the chain with the result that the land was eventually reclaimed and cultivated by peasant cultivators paying rack rents. It was accordingly decided in 1904 to abandon this system and to introduce a system of raiyatwari settlement, as an experimental measure, in the portions of the Sundarbans lying in the districts of Backergunge and the 24-Parganas. Under this system small areas (maximum 75 bighas and minimum 10 bighas) are let out to actual cultivators, assistance being given them by Government in the form of advances as well as by constructing tanks and embankments, and where necessary, clearing the jungle for them. In Backergunge, this system has so far proved successful and large areas are being annually settled and reclaimed at a cost that promises to be ultimately remunerative to Government. The cultivators as a rule clear the jungle themselves and the assistance given by Government is in the form of construction and maintenance of tanks, embankments and drainage channels. In the 24-Parganas, on the other hand, where the areas available for settlement presented greater difficulties in the way of reclamation, the experiment proved a failure. Direct reclamation and raiyatwari settlement were tried on a large scale in Fraserganj, an island on the sea face; but the reclamation proved unexpectedly costly, and cultivators could not be attracted to settle on the island on remunerative terms. In other resumed estates the results of direct reclamation and settlement were equally discouraging, and Sir Edward Baker in 1910 considered that the raiyatwari experiment must be abandoned and the old system of lease to large capitalists reverted to. A new set of rules for settlement with large capitalists in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans is now under consideration. The rules are being framed in such a way as to avoid, as far as possible, the recurrence of the abuses which grew up under the previous set of capitalist rules.

Sagar Island.

216. A separate set of rules for the grant of waste lands in Sagar Island was published by Government Notification No. 1377 L.R., dated 29th March 1907. The rules generally followed the rules for large capitalists in the Sundarbans except that a rent-free period of 15 years was allowed and that failure to clear one-eighth of the entire grant by the end of the 5th year rendered the lessee liable at the discretion of Government to forfeiture of the lease or to a penalty of four annas per acre on the whole area for each year in which the area cleared fell short of the minimum. The assessment was fixed at 2 annas a bigha from the 16th to the 20th year and at 4 annas a bigha from the 21st to the 40th year. After the expiration of the 40th year resettlements were to be made for terms of 20 years. The maximum area of a grant was fixed at 10,000 bighas and leases were sold at an upset price of 8 annas an acre when there was one applicant and to the highest bidder when there were more applicants than one. The lessee was bound to construct protective works and keep them in repair. These rules were suspended by Government Notification No. 3103 T.R., dated 4th November 1904, when it was determined to introduce in the Sundarbans and in Sagar Island a system of raiyatwari settlement. The raiyatwari settlement rules have now again been suspended and a modified set of rules for large capitalists is under consideration as has been stated in the preceding paragraph.

Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri

217. There are two classes of lease rules :—

(1) Those for larger capitalists wishing to grow special crops such as tea.

(2) Those for small capitalists for ordinary cultivation.

The main features of the rules for larger capitalists are the following :—

Declared forest reserves and land having valuable timber in compact blocks, lands in which other rights exist, lands lying within 60 feet from the centre of any public road, and lands expressly exempted by Government, are not to be granted. Each lot must be compact, and not contain ordinarily more than 1,500 acres. On special grounds, however, the Commissioner may sanction grants up to 1,800 acres, the Board of Revenue up to 3,000, while grants in excess of the latter limit require the sanction of

Government. In all cases the applicant must give evidence or guarantees that he has *bonâ fide* at his command sufficient capital to enable him to open out the grant. The holder of a grant can apply for a second grant if he can satisfy the Deputy-Commissioner and superior revenue authorities that he has *bonâ fide* at his command sufficient capital to warrant the concession, and if he has fulfilled all the conditions attaching to his existing grant. Tea leaseholders may obtain arable grants contiguous to their tea lots. Inquiry and survey at the expense of the applicant must ordinarily precede the grant of a lease. A preliminary five-years' lease is granted rent-free for the first year, and at progressive rents for the rest of the term. The rights conveyed are heritable and transferable, provided that the whole lot is transferred, that clearance conditions are duly observed; that a transfer fee has been paid, that the transferee has *bonâ fide* at his command sufficient capital to enable him to cultivate the grant, and that the transfer is registered in the Deputy Commissioner's office within one month of the registration of the deed of transfer. The right of Government to minerals and quarries, and to payment for valuable trees on the grant, and the right of the public to fisheries, and a right of way along the banks of navigable streams are reserved, while provision is made for public access to springs of water on the lands leased, when necessary to insure a supply to persons residing in the vicinity, for the construction and maintenance of proper boundary marks, for the presence of the lessee himself or of a resident manager on the grant, for reports of births and deaths of residents on the area granted, for information as to the progress and outturn of cultivation, for the acquisition by Government of any land required for public purposes free of cost, except by proportionate reduction in the rent and by the payment of the value of any improvements in the land taken up, and for dealing with excess lands found in the possession of the lessee. In the event of the provisions of the Chaukidari Act being enforced in any tea-garden, the lessee is bound to furnish accommodation for the residence of the chaukidar and to see that he receives his pay punctually. Grantees can club or amalgamate their grants by transfers, duly registered, on payment of the prescribed fee. But no isolated grant can be amalgamated with other grants lying more than two miles away from it. Government reserves the right to exclude any particular area from the operation of the rules and to sell grants in that area by auction. If, after inspection during the term of the preliminary lease, 15 per cent. of the total area shall have been brought under cultivation and actually bears tea plants, the lessee is entitled to a renewal for a term of 30 years, and to similar renewals in perpetuity, provided that Government may fix the rent on certain specified conditions on each renewal; that the renewed lease be heritable and transferable in whole or in part with due sanction and after proper registry; and that all the other conditions of the preliminary lease hold good. Failure to comply with any of the conditions renders the lessee liable to forfeiture of his lease; and failure to comply with the clearance conditions of his preliminary lease reduces him, if he is allowed to continue, to the status of a tenant-at-will, the term of grace being limited to three years, within which, if he clears 15 per cent. of the total area, he may obtain a renewed lease.

The second class of rules for small capitalists, as applicable to the Duars, were published on the 16th May 1888, and correspond in the main with the rules for the grant of leases for tea cultivation. The differences are briefly these. Ordinarily the lot must not be less than 10 acres or contain more than 200 acres, but exceptions may be made up to a maximum of 400 acres. The survey fee is to be three annas an acre, and no further sum will be demanded except the actual cost of fixing the boundary, clearing and surveying it and putting up boundary marks, while in the case of tea leases the fee is fixed at one rupee an acre, and the applicant, if the expense exceed the deposit, has to make good the deficiency. Grants under these rules are heritable and transferable. Tea may not be cultivated on the area covered by the lease if that area exceeds 200 acres. No clubbing or amalgamation of grants is allowed, and all land bearing tea will be forfeited to Government if more than one grant becomes the property of the same owner except by inheritance. Renewal of the preliminary lease is

conditional on one-half of the total area held being occupied by homesteads, or cultivated or left fallow, according to good husbandry, or otherwise fairly turned to account for agricultural purposes. The periods of renewals are to be conterminous with the period of settlement in the pargana, current at the time of renewal. Subinfeudation in the first degree only is allowable. The sub-tenant is, however, to have from the lessee the same promise of renewal as the lessee himself has from Government, and the sub-tenant's rent is to be determined by the Deputy Commissioner. Failure to apply for a renewal before the expiration of the preliminary lease reduces the lessee to the status of a tenant-at-will till other arrangements are made. Rates of rent on renewal of the lease have been fixed both in the case of tea leases and of leases of arable lands. Where half the area of the grant of the arable land has not been brought under cultivation, the renewed lease shall ordinarily include an area of waste land equal to the extent of land brought under cultivation during the currency of the preliminary lease, but in such cases the Deputy Commissioner has the power, under certain restrictions, of refusing renewal altogether, or of allowing it on special conditions. Each description of land, tea, bastu, bambu, rupit, faringhati and waste, is charged at the rate fixed in the pargana wherein it is situated, provided that in the case of tea leases the total rent payable under the renewed lease shall not be less than 12 annas an acre on the entire area of the land leased, and in the case of arable leases not less than eight annas an acre. Also, as regards these latter leases, the rent on each occasion of renewal shall not, without the special orders of Government, exceed double the rent previously paid. In the case of tea leases in the hills of the Darjeeling district, an all-round rate of one rupee an acre will be imposed on renewal of the lease, subsequent to the expiration of the preliminary lease. For small capitalists it has been decided that no rules are necessary for Darjeeling.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

218. The grant of leases for tea cultivation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts used to be made under a set of rules based on the tea lease rules in force in the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts and published on the 30th June 1879. In 1900, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation was passed, and a set of rules for the administration of the Hill Tracts was published. These rules supersede those previously in force and under them the Hill Tracts are divided into three circles, and these again into mauzas. The Bahmong, Chakma and Mong chiefs are charged with the administration of the three circles, while headmen who are appointed by the Superintendent of the Hill Tracts, in consultation with the chiefs and the inhabitants of the mauzas, collect rents under the control and authority of the circle chiefs.

The rules allow the gazetted officers of Government, the chiefs and the head men to grant to any suitable person wishing to open plough cultivation, the requisite authority to do so, specifying the terms. The rents for non-agricultural sites, excepting those for bazars, are fixed by the Superintendent. In every mauza, 50 acres of the best arable land in one block, or in area or areas as nearly approaching 50 acres as may be practicable, are demarcated, and set apart as the khas land of Government for the remuneration of village officials. All lands held for plough cultivation on lease from Government are subject to the condition that they cannot be sub-let or transferred, except on hereditary succession, or with the consent of the Commissioner. Grass *kholas* and *oarjan kholas* in the Hill Tracts are settled by the Superintendent either yearly or for periods of not more than 10 years in any case.

Chittagong.

219. There are no rules for leases to large capitalists in this district. For small capitalists, the waste lands used to be broken up into compact blocks of 50 acres each, and the lease of each lot sold by public competition. There was no restriction as to the kind of crops that might be grown. The whole of the waste lands was not thrown open at once for sale, but the leases of the surplus waste land blocks in one village at a time used to be put up to auction on a given day. These rules proved inoperative, and a revised set of rules was published by Government Notification No. 2250 L.R., dated the 30th April 1895.

In a deltaic tract large and compact areas must be leased to admit of economical embanking. To avoid interference with the operations of the Forest Department, no large unculturable tract and no lands surrounded by hills or proposed for enforestation should be included in the lease. No land within 60 feet from either side of a District Board road should be settled. The persons admitted to settlement must be substantial men, and when several persons of equal merit apply for the same area, it may be put up to auction and settled with the highest bidder. When the area requires embanking on an extensive scale, a joint-lease may be given to a number of substantial persons. The term of settlement will expire at the same time as the *noabad* taluki settlement of the thana in which the lands are situate. The rates are to be fixed with reference to the initial expense of bringing the lands under cultivation, the quality of the lands, the charge for repairs of embankments, etc. If a survey is necessary, the applicant must deposit a sum not exceeding 4 annas per acre, and if the cost of survey exceeds 4 annas per acre, he has to pay the balance. The leases are heritable and transferable. The other provisions generally follow the rules for the grant of tea leases in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, so far as they are applicable.

Court of Wards. 220. Under Act IX (B. C.) of 1879 and its amending Acts the Court of Wards may take charge of the persons and properties of the following classes of persons :—

(*a*) females declared by the Court of Wards to be incompetent to manage their own property ;

(*b*) persons declared by the Court of Wards to be minors ;

(*c*) persons adjudged by a competent Civil Court to be of unsound mind and incapable of managing their own affairs ;

(*d*) persons adjudged by a competent Civil Court to be otherwise rendered incapable by physical defects or infirmities of managing their own property.

It may also take charge of the properties, but not the persons of those as to whom, on their own application, the Local Government has declared that they are disqualified, and that it is expedient in the public interest that their estates should be managed by the Court of Wards. The Court of Wards may also, with its own consent, be placed in charge of estates attached by a Civil Court.

The Board of Revenue, Bengal, is the Court of Wards for the Presidency. The Court has in recent years largely delegated its powers, especially in regard to estates the income of which does not exceed one lakh of rupees, to Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors. Under the Collectors the actual management of properties under the Court is entrusted to managers. Large and important estates have, as a rule, a separate manager ; but sometimes one general manager is appointed for all the estates in a particular district.

The Court of Wards was originally established for the security of the Government revenue ; but Government interference on this score is no longer necessary, and the principal business of the Revenue officers who now take charge of Wards' estates is, by acting the part of good and prudent landlords, to serve as models to other proprietors and protectors to their own tenants, to extricate the estates from any difficulties into which they may have fallen, and to employ any surplus income in improving the estates and the condition of the tenantry. The Court accordingly encourages expenditure on the provision of medical relief and primary education for the tenants, on irrigation works, agricultural experiments, village sanitation, markets and advances to cultivators. When an estate is sufficiently solvent, one of the first aims of the Court is to have a survey and record-of-rights of the estate prepared under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act (Act VIII of 1885). This record-of-rights is most beneficial to landlord and tenants. Pending disputes are settled, illegal exactions are removed, fair rents are fixed and a clear record of the respective rights and liabilities of both parties is obtained,

which permits the management to be conducted smoothly and efficiently in the future.

In addition to looking after the property of its wards, the Court exercises a close supervision over their education and general welfare. Minor wards of moderate means usually attend the primary and secondary schools in the neighbourhood of their homes; and if they show any promise, are entered at some college and encouraged to pursue their education as far as their capabilities and the funds of the estate will permit. Private tuition is, as a rule, supplied in addition to the school or college training. Special arrangements are made for the education of the richer and more important wards, and an endeavour is made to fit them for the position they will ultimately hold in society. During the last year or two of their minority special attention is given to the training of male wards in the future management of their estates. A new departure has recently been inaugurated by the appointment of an Indian lady—Miss Cornelia Sorabji—as Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards. The Lady Assistant acts as the intermediary between the Court and its local officers, and the female wards who, as a rule, are strictly *purdanashin*. Her work extends to the whole domestic life of the female wards, as well as to questions relating to their legal business and the management of their estates. She also advises as to the education of the younger children, irrespective of sex. Miss Sorabji's functions are mainly advisory, but she has made herself very popular in the zenanas and has proved of great use to the Court in ascertaining the wishes of the female wards, in securing their comfort and convenience and in explaining to them when necessary the action of the Court.

There are at present 68 estates in charge of the Court, of which the most important are those of—

	Annual rent-roll. Rs.
Nawab Sir Salimulla Bahadur, K.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., of Dacca, and certain co-sharers	6,50,802
Kumar Rabindra Narayan Roy Chowdhury of Bhawal, and co-sharers, in the Dacca district	3,78,119
Kumar Kamala Ranjan Roy of Kasimbazar, district Murshidabad	4,25,856

Rates.

221. To meet the cost of general supervision and management of the estates under the Court, other than that of establishments specially entertained for the supervision or management of any particular estate or group of estates, a general rate is levied from all estates under Act X of 1892. The rate is at present three per cent. for all except one or two of the larger estates for which a lower rate has been fixed. A special audit rate is levied under the same Act on estates with a rent and cess demand of Rs. 50,000 and upwards to meet the cost of a special establishment for auditing the accounts. The present rate is nine annas per cent. Certain fees have also been prescribed under the said Act for all legal business done for any estate by the Legal Remembrancer.

Civil Divisions of British Territory.

Commissionerships.

222. The territory subject to the Governor of Bengal is portioned off into five large tracts, officially called Divisions, each of which is superintended by a Commissioner.

Districts and Subdivisions.

223. These Divisions are divided (Calcutta being excluded) into 27 districts. Districts are again subdivided into subdivisions, of which there are 56 excluding the head-quarters subdivision of each district.

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The table below shows the Divisions, districts and outlying subdivisions of the Province :—

Division.	District.	Subdivision.	Division.	District.	Subdivision.
Burdwan.	Burdwan	Asansol.	Dacca.	Dacca	Narayanganj.
		Katwa.			Manikganj.
		Kalna.			Munshiganj.
	Birbhum	Rampur Hât.		Mymensingh	Jamalpur.
	Bankura	Vishnupur.			Tangail.
	Midnapore	Ghatal.			Netrakona.
		Tamluk.			Kishorganj.
		Contai.		Faridpur	Madaripur.
	Hooghly	Serampur.			Gopalganj.
		Arambagh.			Goalundo.
	Howrah	Ulubaria.		Backergunge	Patuakhali.
Presidency.	24-Parganas	Diamond Harbour.			Pirojpur.
		Barrackpore.			Dakhin Shabazpur.
		Barasat.	Chittagong.	Chittagong	Cox's Bazar.
		Basirhat.		Noakhali	Feni.
	Nadia	Kushtia.		Tippera	Brahmanbaria.
		Meherpur.			Chandpur.
		Chuadanga.		Chittagong Hill Tracts	Nil.
		Ranaghat.	Rajshahi.	Rajshahi	Naugaon.
	Murshidabad	Lalbagh.			Nator.
		Jangipur.		Dinajpur	Balurghat.
		Kandi.			Thakurgaon.
	Jessore	Jhenida.		Jalpaiguri	Alipur.
		Magura.		Rangpur	Nilphamari.
		Narail.			Kurigaon.
		Bangaon.			Gaibandha.
	Khulna	Satkhira.		Bogra	Nil.
		Bagerhat		Pabna	Sirajganj.
				Malda	Nil.
				Darjeeling	Kurseong.
					Siliguri.

The Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts and the Chittagong Hill Tracts are non-regulation districts.

Parganas.

224. For the purposes of revenue administration the country was divided by the Mogul Government into parganas, each pargana comprising a certain number of villages with their lands. This arrangement still forms the basis of our own revenue system; but from its want of compactness, as well as for other reasons, it has been found extremely inconvenient, and in Bengal it has fallen into such decay, that in some districts the pargana boundaries can hardly be ascertained. Detached villages belonging to the same pargana may now be found all over the district, and in some cases in other districts altogether. Practically the pargana divisions of districts have died out, except for purposes of land revenue payments and identification of revenue survey villages, in favour of the simpler and more compact arrangements adopted for purposes of police. This arrangement had its origin in Regulation XXII of 1816 by which the Magistrates were directed to divide their district into police jurisdictions to be named after the places at which the chief police officers were stationed.

Thanas and outposts.

225. In this way the term "thana" which originally meant only the police-station came to be applied to the jurisdiction subordinate to that station. In the course of time the great convenience of the compact police unit involved its employment for revenue and civil purposes also, so that for all purposes of administration a subdivision came to consist of a certain number of thanas, and a district of a certain number of subdivisions. The designation, "thana" is now no longer applied to a police-station or outpost. All investigating police circles are now called police-stations or outposts. The

total number of thanas in Bengal is now 363, and the average area of each is 217 square miles. The average population of a thana is 1,25,298. The total number of police-stations, including independent outposts, is 361.

Tahsildari Divisions.

226. The tahsildari system, which obtains in other parts of India for the collection of revenue, and the tahsil division of territory is not known in these provinces, except in the district of Chittagong, where five circles have been formed for the management of the large number of petty estates scattered all over the district. All these circles are in charge of special tahsildars, who are either Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors. For the collection of rent in the larger Government estates, or groups of estates, there are tahsildars (who also are either Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors) in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Backergunge, Noakhali, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Faridpur, Bogra and Darjeeling. A detailed account of the manner in which these estates are managed is given in the chapter "Character of Land Tenures, etc."

Villages.

227. Since 1901 the urban population has increased by 13 per cent., its growth being more rapid than that of the general population, but out of every 1,000 persons only 64 live in towns. If Calcutta and its suburbs, including Howrah, are left out of account, the proportion of the urban to the total population falls to 4 per cent. The majority of the villages are of small size, the average number of inhabitants per village being 352, and only 13 per cent. of the rural population live in villages with a population of 2,000 or more. The result is significant of the fact that Bengal is essentially an agricultural province. Many even of its so-called towns are merely overgrown villages, where the bulk of the inhabitants are engaged in agriculture, and where most of those occupied in non-agricultural pursuits, other than a few local and primitive industries, are an alien and an immigrant population.

The term "village" is, however, of an elusive character, and incapable of exact definition. The revenue survey unit, the *mauza*, is in recently-surveyed areas a convenient basis of calculation. But in some districts the boundaries of each *mauza* are not accurately known, and in all it does not necessarily correspond to the residential village; it often contains several villages and hamlets. The residential village, moreover, is a very indefinite term. Widely scattered hamlets, or *tolas* as in some parts they are called, are not infrequently known, to the confusion of the wayfarer seeking his destination, by a single common name, whereas in the general acceptation of the term each would be regarded as a separate village. Thus a "village" may vary in size from a collection of hamlets to the village with a population of 5,000 or more, hardly to be distinguished save in name from a small town with its own self-governing institutions.

Eastern Bengal is, as it was ten years ago, the country of small villages. The Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have the largest town population. The land along the river Hooghly is becoming increasingly urban and increasingly populous. In the truly rural tracts, however, the same features of village life are everywhere found. Communal institutions no longer exist as active factors in village administration. Such survivals as are traceable are wholly devoid of political significance, and the village *panchayat* as a court of primitive justice is almost completely discounted by the spirit of litigation from which even the smallest community is not free.

Details of the last Census (1911), Tribes and Languages.

Census procedure.

228. The census procedure followed the lines adopted in 1901, and a brief summary of it is all that is necessary. The first step to be taken was the preparation of the general village register, *i.e.*, a list of all villages and hamlets in existence with the number of houses in each. This register is essential to the success of the operations, for otherwise it is impossible to make sure that no villages and hamlets are lost sight of. In preparing it, the residential village was taken as the unit in the districts under the

Preliminary arrangements.

Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, but in the area administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal it was drawn up on the basis of the *mauza*, *i.e.*, all inhabited villages or hamlets were grouped under the *mauza* in which they were included. The adoption of the *mauza* as the census unit was an innovation in the census procedure of the province. Its advantages are briefly that, unlike the village, the *mauza* is a distinct and permanent unit. Each has its fixed boundaries and a definite area, and in the aggregate these areas make up the whole district. New villages, or groups of houses with new names, may spring up, and others may disappear, but they do not affect the *mauza*, which remains as before unless it is diluviated. Consequently, by adopting the *mauza* as the census unit, and by ascertaining what inhabited villages or hamlets lie within each, it is possible to obtain a complete and accurate record of all inhabited areas, and to compare the statistics obtained at each successive census. The preparation of the register was greatly facilitated by the jurisdiction lists and maps, which had been prepared by Mr. Rowland Chandra, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and by the information contained in Register I of the Chaukidari Manual, in which villages and hamlets are grouped together by *mauzas*.

The village register having been compiled, the district was parcelled out into census divisions. Each *mauza* or village formed one or more blocks, *i.e.*, a group of houses under an enumerator. Their number ranged from forty to fifty, experience having shewn that that was the largest number with which one man could deal efficiently. The blocks were grouped into circles, the size of which had to be such that the supervisor in charge of them could exercise effective supervision over all the enumerators and check the whole of the preliminary enumeration. Ordinarily, about 10 to 15 blocks, or from 400 to 600 houses, were assigned to each supervisor. In forming these circles the Chaukidari Union, being a well defined unit with its own organization, was utilized as much as possible. When of small size it was made a circle, and if it was large, it was divided into several circles. The circles again were grouped into charges, each under a Superintendent. Each charge contained about 12,000 houses, and consisted of a thana or portion of a thana. The Charge Superintendents were under the control of the Subdivisional Officers, except in the Sadar subdivisions where they were under the District Census Officer, who was entrusted with the general supervision of work throughout the district.

After the census divisions had been settled, the next point was to select the agency and then to number the houses: as in 1901, a house was defined as the residence of a commensal family. While they were being numbered, the enumerators prepared house lists, *i.e.*, forms showing for each village the census number of the house, the description of the house and the name of the head of each family. During the whole time that house-numbering was in progress, the Charge Superintendents and other inspecting officers were constantly on the move, inspecting the work, correcting mistakes and seeing that no houses were left unnumbered or omitted from the house lists. House-numbering was completed in most places by the middle of November, but, as new houses are constantly being erected, the inquiries had to be continued up to the very day of the census. Throughout November and December the enumerators and supervisors were systematically and methodically trained in the duties of actual enumeration, *i.e.*, how the columns of the schedules were to be filled up, what mistakes were likely to occur, etc. For this purpose oral instruction was supplemented by test enumerations, for which blank schedules were provided.

The census.

229. The preliminary enumeration commenced on the 1st February 1911 in the villages and on the 11th February 1911 in the towns, and was completed by the 20th February in the former and by the 2nd March in the latter. During these three weeks the necessary particulars were entered in the schedules for all persons ordinarily resident in each house. In order to reduce mistakes to a minimum, the record was first made on plain paper, and the schedules were not written up till the rough draft had been passed by the supervisor. While the preliminary enumeration was in progress, and also after its completion, every effort was made to see that no omissions had occurred and that the entries were complete and accurate. For

this purpose officers who had been carefully trained beforehand were deputed to examine and check the work and give any necessary instructions to the staff.

The actual census took place on the night of the 10th March, and consisted of checking and correcting the record of the preliminary enumeration by striking out the entries relating to persons who had died or gone away and entering the necessary particulars for newly-born children and newcomers, so that it should correspond with the state of facts actually existing on the census night. The preparation of the provisional totals began either after midnight or on the morning after the census. The enumerators met their supervisors and prepared abstracts showing the number of houses and of persons, males and females, in their blocks. The supervisor prepared a similar summary for the circle, which was despatched to the Charge Superintendent. The latter having checked all the circle summaries, drew up a summary for the charge. The last stage in this part of the operations was reached when the District Census Officer, having received and checked all the charge summaries, prepared a similar summary for the district, which he wired to the Census Superintendent and also to the Census Commissioner.

Compilation and tabulation.

230. The final results were obtained by compilation and tabulation, of which there are three stages, viz., slip-copying, sorting and compilation. Slip-copying is the process of copying the entries in the schedules on to slips. A separate slip is used for each of the persons enumerated, but much labour is saved by the use of slips of different colours to indicate religion, of symbols to indicate sex, and of abbreviations for the actual entries in the schedules. As in 1901, the greater part of the slip-copying was carried out in district offices, the slips being sent when ready to the central offices, where the sorting and subsequent operations required for the preparation of the final tables were carried out. In the central offices arrangements were made for copying the slips of the districts in which they were situated, together with some, or all, of the slips for other districts where there were difficulties in the way of getting the work done locally. In this way the slips of the 24-Parganas, of the Siliguri subdivision of Darjeeling and of part of Jessore were copied at the Berhampore central office besides those for Murshidabad, while the slips of Hooghly, Calcutta and the remainder of Jessore were copied at the Hooghly central office. The central offices provided the nucleus of the establishment that was required later for sorting, while the officers in charge became accustomed to the work and to the control of a large staff before the more intricate work of sorting began. Sorting is the process of arranging the slips under the heads required for the various final tables, counting the slips as thus arranged, and entering the number on forms provided for the purpose, which are known as sorters' tickets. This operation was followed by compilation, or the process of combining the figures in the sorters' tickets, so as to obtain the totals for the district. The compilation registers, in which the figures were entered, were despatched, as soon as they were ready, to the office of the Provincial Superintendent, where a detailed examination of the statistics was carried out, doubtful entries checked and discrepancies inquired into. This final work of revision having been completed, the tables were prepared. Some unavoidable delay in their publication was necessitated by the administrative changes referred to below, as the tables which had already been prepared for the two provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, had to be recast and revised tables prepared for Bengal and Bihar and Orissa.

General results.

231. At the time of the census the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, the district of Darjeeling and the State of Cooch Behar were under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and the remainder of the Province was administered by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. On the occasion of the Coronation Durbar held at Delhi in December 1911, His Majesty the King-Emperor announced that Assam was again to become a separate province under a Chief Commissioner, while the rest of Eastern Bengal and Assam was to be reunited with the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, the district of Darjeeling and the State of Cooch Behar to form a Presidency under a Governor-in-Council. The new Presidency came into being on the 1st April 1912, a little more than a year after the

census, and the statistics have been re-arranged for Bengal as now constituted.

The Presidency of Bengal contains a population of 46,305,642 persons, and extends over 84,092 square miles. Though its area is only a little less than that of Great Britain, it contains nearly a million more inhabitants than the whole of the British Isles. Compared with other provinces in India, it is inferior to the main British Provinces in territorial extent, but its population is exceeded only by that of the United Provinces. The statistics for the province are grouped, as in 1901, by four natural divisions with broad physical and ethnological affinities, viz.—

West Bengal—The Burdwan Division.
Central Bengal—The Presidency Division, excluding Khulna.
North Bengal—The Rajshahi Division and Cooch Behar.
East Bengal—The Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, Khulna and Hill Tippera.

The principal statistics for each of these tracts are shown in the following statement :—

Locality.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Density per square mile.	Percentage of variation.				Net variation, 1872—1911.
				1901-1911.	1891-1901.	1881-1891.	1872-1881.	
Bengal ...	84,092	46,305,642	551	+ 8·0	+ 7·7	+ 7·5	+ 6·7	+ 33·5
West Bengal ...	13,948	8,467,314	607	+ 2·8	+ 7·2	+ 4·0	— 2·8	+ 11·3
Central Bengal	12,734	8,078,555	634	+ 4·5	+ 5·2	+ 3·2	+ 11·8	+ 26·8
North Bengal ...	20,542	10,731,254	522	+ 8·0	+ 5·7	+ 4·1	+ 5·3	+ 25·1
East Bengal ...	36,868	19,028,519	516	+ 12·1	+ 10·5	+ 14·1	+ 11·0	+ 56·8

Variations.

232. During the 39 years over which the census operations have extended, Bengal has added 11,618,350 persons, or 33·5 per cent. to its population. Each census has disclosed a progressive rise in the ratio of increase, which has steadily advanced from 6·7 to 8 per cent. The growth has been greatest in East Bengal, which is now more populous by 56·8 per cent. than it was in 1872. Both Central and North Bengal have added to their population at every census, but the rates of increase since that year are less than half that returned for East Bengal. West Bengal has been the least progressive, owing partly to the decline between 1872 and 1881, when it suffered from the long continued visitation of Burdwan fever, and partly to the small increase (2·8 per cent.) registered in 1911.

During the last decade there has been an increase in the population of every district except Nadia and Jessore, which suffer from persistent malaria and have no large industries or manufactures which would attract immigrants. The greatest progress has been made by East Bengal, where every district has a substantial increase: here the largest proportional growth has occurred in Hill Tippera (32½ per cent.), and the least in Backergunge, where the increase (6 per cent.) is very nearly the same as in 1901. In North Bengal also every district has gained ground, the percentage varying from one-half per cent. in Pabna to 15 per cent. in Bogra. Central Bengal owes its increase of 4½ per cent. entirely to the accession of population in the 24-Parganas, Calcutta and Murshidabad. The 24-Parganas, which is now more populous by 17 per cent., has gained very greatly by immigration, the foreign-born population being nearly one-fourth of the total population. West Bengal has advanced but slightly since 1901. In Howrah there is an addition of 10·9 per cent., mainly the result of immigration stimulated by industrial activity in the city of Howrah and its neighbourhood, but in no other district of this Division does the proportional growth reach even 4 per cent., and those alluvial tracts which are remote from Calcutta, and which have no large industries and manufactures, are more or less decadent or stationary.

233. Bengal, with an average density of 551 persons to the square mile, is more thickly populated than any European country except Belgium and England. In North Bengal and East Bengal, where there are few big cities or large industries, the pressure on the soil is less than in Central Bengal and West Bengal, which contain the populous cities of Calcutta and Howrah and the metropolitan districts of Hooghly and the 24-Parganas. Central Bengal, with 634 persons per square mile, has the greatest density of population, and is closely followed by West Bengal with 607 to the square mile. In North Bengal the ratio is 522, and in East Bengal 516 per square mile. No less than one-fourth, however, of the area included in the latter division is accounted for by Hill Tippera and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, whose jungle-covered hills contain only one-fiftieth of its population. If these two tracts are left out of account, the ratio of East Bengal rises to 674 to the square mile and is higher than in any other division. The most congested district is Howrah, in which each square mile supports 1,850 persons. The only other district with a density of over 1,000 is Dacca, but two more districts (Hooghly and Tippera) have over 900 persons per square mile. Five districts and the two States of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera, support less than 500 persons per square mile. The scantiest population is found in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where, in spite of a substantial increase during the last decade, the density does not exceed 30 per square mile. During the last 20 years the growth of population in the most populous areas has been greater than in the most sparsely populated. This is due partly to the influx of immigrants into the cities of West and Central Bengal, and partly to natural growth in the fertile rice-growing areas of East Bengal, where the population is growing rapidly in spite of a high average density. Dacca, which in 1901 had 952 persons to the square mile, registers a gain of 12 per cent., and Tippera, which had 848, of nearly 15 per cent. **Density.**

234. Since 1901 the urban population has increased by 13 per cent., its growth being more rapid than that of the general population, but out of every 1,000 persons only 64 live in towns. There are altogether 124 towns with an average population of 23,937 persons, but if Calcutta and its suburbs including Howrah (which contain two-fifths of the urban population) are left out of account, the number of inhabitants per town is under 15,000 and the proportion of the urban to the total population falls to 4 per cent. Outside Calcutta and the metropolitan districts of Howrah, the 24-Parganas and Hooghly, there are only three towns containing over 30,000 persons. The first two districts are the most distinctively urban, over one-fifth of their inhabitants being resident in towns, while the proportion is a little over one-tenth in Hooghly. There has been a remarkable expansion in the mill towns along the Hooghly in these three districts. The land along this river is, in fact, becoming increasingly urban and increasingly populous. The aggregate population of seven riparian towns in the 24-Parganas has increased by 87 per cent. in the last ten years. Titagarh has nearly trebled, and Bhatpara has nearly doubled its population, while Bhadreswar on the other side of the Hooghly has an addition of over 60 per cent. Hindus rather than Musalmans appear to be attracted by town life, nearly one-tenth of the Hindu and less than 4 per cent. of the Musalman population being inhabitants of towns. Though more than half of the people of Bengal are Musalmans, they contribute less than one-third of the urban population. **Towns and villages.**

No less than 936 per mille of the population are resident in villages, and the majority of the villages are of small size. The average number of inhabitants per village is 352, and only 13 per cent. of the rural population live in villages with a population of 2,000 or more.

235. The result of the census is to show that the total population of Calcutta and the suburbs, *i.e.*, the suburban municipalities of Cossipur-Chitpur, Maniktala and Garden Reach, is 1,043,307, which exceeds by 62,862 that of Bombay, the second most populous city in India. With the exception of London, no other city in the British Empire has so many inhabitants, and it takes its place among the twelve largest cities in the world. Calcutta proper, *i.e.*, the area administered by the Corporation of Calcutta with the Fort, Port and Canals, has 896,067, and the suburbs 147,240 inhabitants. **Calcutta and suburbs.**

For all practical purposes, however, the suburbs form part of the same city, being connected with Calcutta by a continuous line of buildings, and only differentiated by having another system of municipal government.

The percentage of growth in Calcutta, which was 24·3 per cent. in 1901, has now fallen to 5·7 per cent., but part of the increase recorded at the last census was due to improved enumeration, and its real expansion was less than the figures indicate. Apart from this, the falling off in the rate of growth is due to a centrifugal tendency, people preferring to make their homes in the neighbourhood of Calcutta rather than within the city limits. The number of persons born in Calcutta and resident in the city is now nearly 34,000, or 13 per cent. less than in 1901 ; had it remained the same, the rate of growth would have been 9·8 per cent. The desertion of the native-born is the result partly of the extension of the tramway, the development of ferry steamer services on the Hooghly and the growth of suburban traffic, and partly of the reforms carried out in Calcutta during the last 10 years, especially in connection with the fringe area and suburban drainage schemes. The systematic improvement and demolition of the insanitary blocks of huts known as *bastis* has also materially affected the distribution of the population, for the coolies who lived in the demolished huts have had to move out and find lodging elsewhere. It is chiefly on this account that the ratio of increase in the Suburbs (45·3 per cent.) is so much greater than in Calcutta itself. In the latter, immigrants, *i.e.*, persons born outside the city, now number 539,348, or seven-tenths of the population. The great majority leave their wives at home, a factor which produces a great disparity of the sexes ; there are only 357 females to every 1,000 males among the immigrants, while the proportion in the total population is 475 to every 1,000 males.

Other cities.

236. There are only two other cities in Bengal, viz., Howrah and Dacca. Since the last decade Howrah has increased by 13·6 per cent., and it has more than doubled its population since 1872 : the aggregate now returned is 179,006. It owes its development entirely to the demand for labour in the jute mills and other manufactures. A special industrial census shows that over one-fifth of its total population are employed in industrial concerns, the jute mills and presses alone employing one-seventh. Nearly half the inhabitants were born in the United Provinces or the province of Bihar and Orissa, and those speaking Bengali are outnumbered by those whose mother-tongue is Hindi. With a population of 108,551 the city of Dacca contains 58 per cent. more inhabitants than in 1872. Its development has been most rapid during the last ten years, during which it added 21 per cent. to its numbers.

Migration.

237. The balance of migration is strongly in favour of Bengal, for it receives 1,839,000 immigrants from other parts of India, and sends out only 553,000 emigrants. Of the latter, three-fifths were enumerated in the border districts of other provinces, and those who went further afield number only 202,000. The greatest number of immigrants come from the province of Bihar and Orissa, which contributes 1¼ million. Then come, in order, the United Provinces (406,000), Assam (67,000), Rajputana (37,000), the Central Provinces (21,000), the Punjab (19,000), Madras (14,000) and Bombay (9,000). Much of the immigation is periodic, the immigrants consisting of persons who obtain temporary employment in the province and return to their homes after they have accumulated sufficient savings. The extent of the internal movements of the people is sufficiently illustrated by the marginal statement showing for each natural division the proportion of immigrants and emigrants. Even within the province, the Bengali does not appear to

NATURAL DIVISION.	NUMBER PER 1,000 OF ACTUAL POPULATION.					
	IMMIGRANTS FROM—			EMIGRANTS TO—		
	Total.	Contiguous districts.	Other places.	Total.	Contiguous districts.	Other places.
Bengal	***43***	***8***	***35***	***13***	***7***	***6***
West Bengal	52	21	31	49	37	12
Central do.	125	39	86	37	25	12
North do.	86	34	52	12	10	2
East do.	16	7	9	20	10	10

care to go far away from his native village, though wherever he goes he enjoys much the same climate and finds himself among men of the same race and language. Those who were either temporarily or permanently resident at the time of the census in non-contiguous districts represented only 6 per mille of the population. There are only ten districts of which the emigrant exceeds the immigrant population, viz., Bankura and Midnapore in West Bengal, Nadia, Jessore and Murshidabad in Central Bengal, Pabna in North Bengal, and Dacca, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong in East Bengal. The excess is greatest in the healthy district of Bankura (129,000) and least in the notoriously unhealthy district of Jessore (14,000). Bankura is also easily first from a relative point of view, for its emigrants constitute 15 per cent. of its total population: in no other district does the proportion reach 7 per cent. Of the districts which benefit by immigration, the greatest gainers are the 24-Parganas and Jalpaiguri, where the immigrants outnumber the emigrants by 262,000 and 244,000 respectively. Proportionately, however, the foreign-born population is greatest in Darjeeling, where it represents 44 per cent. of the total population, and is least in Chittagong, where it is 1 per cent. only.

Religion.

238. The general distribution of the people by religion at this and the last census is shewn in the margin, together with the variations which have occurred since 1901. In Bengal the Musalmans predominate, representing 52·4 per cent. of the population, and outnumbering Hindus by over 3¼ millions. These two religions account between them for all but 2·4 per cent. of the population. Animists, Buddhists and Christians taken together number a little over 1,100,000, and the aggregate for all other religions is under 61,000.

Religion.	Bengal. Number. 1911.	Bengal. Number. 1901.	Variation per cent., 1901—1911.
Hindus ...	20,945,379	20,150,541	+ 3·9
Musalmans ...	24,237,228	21,947,980	+ 10·4
Animists ...	730,780	442,594	+ 65·1
Buddhists ...	246,866	216,506	+ 14·0
Christians ...	129,746	106,596	+ 21·7
Jains ...	6,782	5,232	+ 29·6
Brahmos ...	2,958	2,898	+ 2·0
Sikhs ...	2,221	258	+760·9
Jews ...	1,993	1,914	+ 4·1
Confucians ...	1,058	178	+494·4
Parsis ...	611	356	+ 71·6
Aryas ...	20	.....	...

Musalmans.

239. Musalmans are in a majority, except in the south-west, the extreme north and the extreme south-east of the Presidency. East Bengal contains more than half the aggregate number, North Bengal a little over a quarter and Central Bengal slightly less than a sixth. In West Bengal they constitute only 13 per cent. of the total population, but in Central Bengal the proportion is 48 per cent. Both in Calcutta and in the metropolitan districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly the Hindu community is largely recruited by immigration, there being over one million Hindu immigrants. The preponderance of Musalmans is more pronounced in North Bengal, where their proportion to the total population is 59 per cent. In this division they are in a minority in Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and the State of Cooch Behar; in the remaining districts they account for 50 per cent. (Malda) to 82 per cent. (Bogra) of the inhabitants. They are more than twice as numerous as the Hindus in East Bengal, where they are in a minority only in Hill Tippera and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Hindus.

240. West Bengal contributes one-third of the total Hindu population of the province, and East Bengal a little over a quarter, while both Central and North Bengal account for under a fifth. The most distinctively Hindu districts are found in West Bengal, where Hindus represent 82 per cent. of the total population. In Central Bengal the proportion falls to 51 per cent., while in North Bengal it is only 37 per cent., the minimum of 31 per cent. being reached in East Bengal. Altogether, there are only ten districts in which Hindus outnumber Musalmans, viz., the six districts of West Bengal, the 24-Parganas in Central Bengal, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri in North Bengal, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts: in the district last named, however, the Hindus are largely outnumbered by both Animists and Buddhists. They are in a strong majority in the two States of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera, and also in Calcutta, where they constitute over two-thirds of the population.

Relative growth of Musalmans and Hindus.

241. The Musalmans are increasing far more rapidly than the Hindus, the percentage of increase among them during the last decennium being nearly thrice as great as among their Hindu neighbours. This is no new feature, but has been in operation for the last 30 years. During that period the Hindus of Bengal have added only 16 per cent. to their numbers, while the followers of the Prophet have an addition of 29 per cent. Nowhere have the latter made such progress as in East Bengal, where they are more numerous by 50½ per cent. than they were in 1881, the corresponding ratio for Hindus being barely 26 per cent.

Natural Division.	Variation per cent. 1901—1911.		Variation per mille of total population, 1901—1911.	
	Hindu.	Musalman	Hindu.	Musalman.
Bengal	***+ 3·9***	***+ 10·4***	***— 17·7***	***+ 1·15***
West Bengal ...	+ 1·7	+ 4·9	— 8·6	+ 2·7
Central Bengal	+ 5·2	+ 3·1	+ 3·6	— 6·3
North Bengal	+ 2·9	+ 8·2	— 18·3	+ 1·9
East Bengal ...	+ 6·6	+ 14·6	— 16·2	+ 13·8

The chief causes of the greater rapidity of growth among the Musalmans appear to be their greater fecundity and the larger number of married females among them at the child-bearing age. At this age there are four married Musalman women to every three Hindu married women, and altogether 87 per cent. of the Musalman women of the child-bearing age are married, whereas the proportion for Hindu women is 76 per cent.: the difference between the latter figures is due to the practice of widow marriage, 22 per cent. of the Hindu women of child-bearing age being widows, while only 11 per cent. of the Musalman women have lost their husbands and remained unmarried. Another contributory factor is the prevalence of early marriage among Hindus, the evil effects of which are too well known to require explanation. Out of every 100 Musalman females 10 to 15 years of age, 56 per cent. are married, whereas the proportion among Hindu females is as high as 67 per cent.

Animists.

242. Nearly half the total number of Animists are residents of West Bengal, where the lateritic districts of Birbhum, Bankura and Midnapore contain a little under 300,000, the majority of whom are Santals. The other Animistic centre consists of Malda, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri, where there are over 200,000, mostly tea garden coolies from Chota Nagpur. Their aggregate number has risen since 1901 by nearly 300,000 or 65 per cent. This phenomenal growth is the result mainly of immigration, the aboriginal races pouring in from the Chota Nagpur Plateau to clear jungle in the Barind, to work as labourers in the rice-fields or to find employment in the tea gardens.

Buddhists.

243. The Buddhists are nearly all inhabitants of the Chittagong Division, Backergunge and Hill Tippera, which between them contains 188,000, and of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, where the total is 56,000. In the former area they consist mainly of Maghs, the descendants of immigrants from Arakan; in the latter they are recruited from among the Nepalese, Bhotias and Lepchas. There are no signs of their absorption into Hinduism, the increase recorded at this census being 14 per cent.

Christians.

244. The Christian community has increased by 23,000 or 22 per cent. since 1901, but the aggregate is only a little more than half that of the Buddhists. About three-fourths of them are Indian converts (83,260) the principal denominations being as shewn in the margin. There are over 11,000 Indian Roman Catholics in Dacca, which is followed *longo intervallo* by Calcutta with 4,000, by Nadia and the 24-Parganas with about 3,000 each, and by Midnapore with 1,200. In no other district of Bengal does their number come up to 1,000. The Baptists have made most progress in Eastern Bengal, where their missionaries have laboured among the Namasudras. In the Dacca Division their number (11,251) has risen by nearly 3,000 since 1901, and in the Rajshahi Division from 886 to 2,418. In the 24-Parganas they now number 2,785, or nearly double as many as in 1901. Members of the Anglican Communion are

Roman Catholic	...	28,885
Baptist ...	...	22,903
Anglican ...	...	18,005
Presbyterian ...	...	4,115
Methodist ...	...	3,037
Congregationalist	...	2,336
Lutheran ...	...	976

most numerous in Nadia, the 24-Parganas, Calcutta and Jalpaiguri: the aggregate for the rest of the Presidency is under 2,500. The remainder of the Christian community consists of 25,451 Europeans or members of allied races, 1,063 Armenians and 21,035 Anglo-Indians. Of the Europeans, two-thirds are members of the Anglican Communion and one-fifth are Roman Catholics. The proportions are very different among the Anglo-Indians, of whom 58 per cent. are Roman Catholics, while 32 per cent. belong to the Church of England.

Age.

245. The mean age, *i.e.*, the average age of the persons who were alive on the date of the census, depends largely on the proportion of young children and old persons to the total population. It has increased during the last decade, and is highest in Central and West Bengal which contain a number of cities with a large immigrant population of adult males in the prime of life. It is low in North Bengal, and even more so in East Bengal, where a high birth-rate raises the proportion of children. Females have a lower mean age than males, especially in Central and East Bengal. As regards religions, the Hindus have the highest mean age, as is only natural because they are less prolific than the Muhammadans or Animists, and have consequently a smaller proportion of children. Between 1891 and 1901 there was a fall in the proportion of children to married women at the child-bearing age, which indicates a general decrease in the fecundity of the people. The proportion has been still further reduced during the last decade, except in North Bengal, where there has been a steady increase in fecundity since 1891. Infantile mortality is extraordinarily high, one out of every five children dying within a year of birth.

Sex.

246. There is a slight disparity in the sexes, there being 945 females to every 1,000 males, which is due mainly to immigration, for most of the immigrants are males who leave their wives at home. Even in the natural population however, *i.e.*, persons actually born within the province (excluding immigrants from outside) there are only 970 females to every 1,000 males, and males are in excess in all but five districts and the State of Hill Tippera. The proportion of females has been steadily declining since 1881, when they outnumbered the males, but, as pointed out in 1901, the most progressive tracts are generally those where males predominate.

Civil condition.

247. In the population as a whole a little over half the males and one-third of the females are unmarried: among the former 78 per cent. and among the latter 97 per cent., of those who have not gone through the marriage ceremony are under 15 years of age. There is comparatively little difference in the numbers till the age of 10 to 15 is reached, when there are three unmarried youths to every unmarried girl. Among the males 3½ per cent. are widowers, while among the females one in every five is a widow. The returns throw considerable light on the difference in the marriage customs of Hindus and Musalmans. Between five and ten years of age one out of every eight Hindu girls has gone through the marriage ceremony, and rather more than two-thirds of those aged 10 to 15, whereas the proportion in the Muhammadan community is only 9 and 56 per cent., respectively. Among the Hindu women one out of every four, and among the followers of the Prophet one out of every six, is a widow. The frequency of widow marriage among the latter is responsible for a striking contrast in the returns for widows at the marriageable age of 15 to 40, when the proportion among the Hindus is nearly double as high as among the adherents of Islam.

Languages.

248. The Indian languages spoken in Bengal belong to one or other of four linguistic families as shewn in the margin. The languages of the Indo-European family consist mainly of Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Oriya and Naipali; the Austro-Asiatic family comprises the Munda languages, while the Dravidian languages are represented chiefly by Oraon. The Tibeto-Chinese family comprises the Tibeto-Burman languages, which are subdivided into Tibeto-Himalayan languages, *e.g.*, Bhotia and Nepalese tribal languages, and Assam-Burmese languages, such as Bodo, Mech, Garo, Tipura and Burmese.

Family.	Number of speakers.
Indo-European	... 44,904,000
Austro-Asiatic	... 771,000
Dravidian	... 133,000
Tibeto-Chinese	... 446,000

Bengali is the language of 92 per cent. of the population, while Hindi and Urdu are returned for nearly 2 millions or 4 per cent. Since 1901 the number of persons speaking Bengali has risen by 7 per cent., which is 1 per cent. less than the rate of growth among the general population. Among the persons speaking Hindi and Urdu there has been an increase of 430,000 or 29 per cent., the result mainly of immigration : the males speaking Hindi outnumber the females by 2 to 1. Calcutta and the districts of Howrah and the 24-Parganas, where the mill hands are recruited chiefly from up-country, contain 731,000 speakers of Hindi and Urdu, or over one-third of the total number in Bengal. A large increase is registered in North Bengal, where the speakers of Hindi are more numerous by 182,000 or 42 per cent. than they were 10 years ago: it now contains over 600,000 persons, with whom Hindi or Urdu is the mother-tongue. There are 294,000 speakers of Oriya, of whom two-thirds are resident in Midnapore ; practically all the remainder are immigrants, there being only one female to every eight males among them. Midnapore is the only district where Oriya is a native language, and here it is almost confined to the south of the district bordering on Balasore. The last important language of the Indo-European family is Naipali, which is more or less confined to Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, where it is spoken by 89,000 persons. Of the 771,000 persons whose mother-tongue is one or the other of the Munda languages, the great majority are Santals in West and North Bengal. The Oraon speakers number 117,000, of whom half are found in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri. The south-east of Bengal is the home of the Assam-Burmese languages, which are spoken by 279,000 persons, chiefly in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Hill Tippera. Numerically, the most important of these languages is Tipura or Mrung, which is the mother-tongue of the Tiparas, of whom three-fourths are found in Hill Tippera, and nearly all the remainder in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Burmese is the vernacular of 74,000 persons, chiefly Maghs, who use a dialect of Burmese current in Arakan, from which most of their forefathers came. The Tibeto-Himalayan languages, such as Bhotia, Lepcha and Nepalese tribal dialects, are spoken by 110,000 persons in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri.

Infirmities.

249. Insanity is unusually common in Bengal, where every district and State, except Darjeeling and Nadia, has over 25 insane persons per 100,000 of the population. It is most prevalent on the east of the Bhagirathi, and the highest incidence is found in North Bengal and East Bengal. There has been an increase in the number of insane persons since 1901, but it is not incommensurate with the general increase of the population. The ratio for males is exactly the same as it was in 1901. but among females it has risen by 1 per 100,000. Deaf-mutism is most prevalent in those districts of North Bengal which are watered by Himalayan rivers ; in all of them it is associated with cretinism and goitre. The proportion of deaf-mutes is the same as at the last census, while blindness is less prevalent in all parts of the province except Central Bengal, where the proportion remains the same. Leprosy is rife in the three districts of Bankura, Burdwan and Birbhum. The greatest intensity is reached in Bankura with a ratio of 23 per 10,000 ; this district is, indeed, the blackest leper spot in the whole of India. Since 1901 there has been a decline in the number of lepers both in these leper centres and in the Province as a whole. The decrease may also be due, to a small degree, to more accurate diagnosis of cases of leprosy, complaints such as leucoderma and secondary syphilis being excluded from the returns. Even however, allowing for this, the decrease has been so general and so continuous during the last 30 years, that there is justification for the belief that leprosy is gradually becoming less common.

Infirmity.	Number.	Proportion per 100,000.
Insane ...	19,978	43
Deaf-mutes ...	32,125	69
Blind ...	32,747	71
Lepers ...	17,485	38

Education.

250. The test of literacy prescribed at this census was somewhat higher than that of 1901, as it was laid down that no one should be entered as literate who cannot both read and write a letter to a friend. In spite of the higher standard imposed, there has been an increase of no less than 632,222 or 21½ per cent. in the literate population. Even with this increase, however, barely 8 per cent. of the people are literate, only one male in

seven and one female in 91 being able to read and write. Relatively, education is spreading faster among females than among males, the ratio of increase among female literates being 56 per cent., and among male literates 19½ per cent. The actual number of females able to read and write (90,342) is still, however, only one-sixth of that returned for males. The proportion of literates to the total population is highest in Central (11 per cent.) and West Bengal (10 per cent.), and lowest in North Bengal, where it is only 5 per cent., East Bengal with 7 per cent. occupying an intermediate position. There is a striking disproportion in the figures for Hindus and Musalmans, for the percentage of literate persons among the latter is only about one-third of that found among the former. The number of persons who can read and write English is 498,000 or 1 per cent. of the population; over one-fourth of the total number were enumerated in Calcutta.

Occupations.

251. At this census occupations have been classified according to a new scheme prepared by the Census Commissioner on the basis of a scheme drawn up by M. Bertillon. All occupations are grouped in 4 main classes, which are subdivided into 12 sub-classes, 55 orders and 169 groups. The main statistics are given in Table VI at the end of this chapter, where they are arranged by orders and sub-classes. Nearly 35½ million persons or three-fourths of the people are supported by pasture and agriculture, a little under 30 millions or two-thirds of the people are cultivators, while 1,200,000 or about 3 per cent. are maintained by income from agricultural land, and 3⅔ millions or 7½ per cent. are farm servants and field-labourers. It is a clear sign of the low industrial level of the province that agricultural labourers are only slightly outnumbered by those who follow industrial pursuits or depend on industries for their support. The number returned under the head "Industry" is 3,441,000, of whom about one-fourth depend on textile industries. Trade accounts for 2½ millions or 5 per cent., while those who come under the head "Transport" aggregate nearly 1 million or 2 per cent. The latter are outnumbered slightly by "Labourers and workmen otherwise unspecified," who correspond to general labourers. Nearly half a million are maintained by service in the public force (mainly the police) or various branches of the administration. Professions and the liberal arts (including religion) account for four-fifths of a million, or under 1 per cent. Domestic service provides for over half a million, while those subsisting by unproductive professions, such as prostitutes and beggars, number 446,000 or nearly 1 per cent.

Extremely interesting results have been obtained by a special industrial census, held concurrently with the general census, by which returns were obtained of industrial and manufacturing concerns employing 20 persons or more. The total number of such concerns, including mills, factories, mines, etc., is 1,466, of which 1,001 are found in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. Calcutta (495), the 24-Parganas (175) and Howrah (124) account for more than half the total number. The total labour force is 606,305, of whom 427,972 are unskilled labourers, 77,684 being under 14 years of age. The aggregate of skilled workmen is 160,848, of whom all but 1,079 are Indians. Those engaged in direction, supervision and clerical work number 17,485: of the latter, 2,915 are Europeans or Anglo-Indians, and 14,570 are Indians. No less than one-third of the total labour force is employed in the jute mills, and almost the same number in the tea gardens of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. Seven other kinds of industrial or manufacturing concerns, as shewn in the margin, employ over 10,000 persons each, the aggregate being 121,950, of whom nearly a fourth are engaged in coal mining in Burdwan.

	Number.	Employés.
Jute mills	50	200,446
Tea plantations ...	240	191,286
Collieries	129	37,797
Railway workshops ...	15	22,735
Brick and tile factories ...	161	22,019
Jute presses ...	109	13,842
Printing presses ...	103	12,181
Cotton mills	18	11,752
Machinery and engineering works	37	11,714

Chap I. PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TABLE I.—AREA, HOUSES,

Serial No.	DISTRICT OR STATE.	Area in square miles.	Towns.	Villages.	OCCUPIED HOUSES.		
					Total.	In towns.	In villages.
	BENGAL	***84,092***	***124***	***123,245***	***8,789,948***	***551,688***	***8,238,260***
	(1) British Territory	***78,699***	***119***	***119,732***	***8,631,502***	***546,551***	***8,084,951***
	BURDWAN DIVISION	***13,948***	***28***	***24,104***	***1,858,879***	***173,203***	***1,685,676***
1	Burdwan	2,691	6	2,769	355,862	23,209	332,653
2	Birbhum	1,752	1	2,316	204,179	2,008	202,171
3	Bankura	2,621	3	4,634	231,793	11,714	220,079
4	Midnapore	5,186	8	11,316	583,328	24,425	558,903
5	Hooghly	1,188	8	2,202	262,778	43,593	219,185
6	Howrah	510	2	967	220,939	68,254	152,685
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	***17,499***	***48***	***13,341***	***1,703,921***	***236,240***	***1,467,681***
7	24-Parganas	4,844	26	3,385	454,299	127,617	326,682
8	Calcutta	32	1	...	44,297	44,297	.....
9	Nadia	2,790	9	2,367	340,885	34,134	306,751
10	Murshidabad	2,143	6	1,879	281,807	18,661	263,146
11	Jessore	2,925	3	3,758	353,828	4,847	348,981
12	Khulna	4,765	3	1,952	228,805	6,684	222,121
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	***19,235***	***20***	***39,081***	***1,869,633***	***47,356***	***1,822,277***
13	Rajshahi	2,618	2	6,670	312,638	7,460	305,178
14	Dinajpur	3,946	1	9,658	300,302	3,353	296,949
15	Jalpaiguri	2,919	2	2,219	170,637	2,764	167,873
16	Darjeeling	1,164	2	504	64,301	4,775	59,526
17	Rangpur	3,479	6	7,435	404,143	7,646	396,497
18	Bogra	1,359	2	3,618	169,130	2,973	166,157
19	Pabna	1,851	2	4,294	273,212	9,628	263,584
20	Malda	1,899	3	4,683	175,270	8,757	166,513
	DACCA DIVISION	***16,244***	***17***	***31,780***	***2,236,212***	***68,143***	***2,168,069***
21	Dacca	2,777	2	8,695	545,663	25,226	520,437
22	Mymensingh	6,249	8	12,130	776,906	25,619	751,287
23	Faridpur	2,576	2	5,946	416,321	7,649	408,672
24	Backergunge	4,642	5	5,009	497,322	9,649	487,673
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***11,773***	***6***	***11,426***	***962,857***	***21,609***	***941,248***
25	Tippera	2,499	3	6,916	403,275	11,505	391,770
26	Noakhali	1,644	1	2,725	230,044	1,471	228,573
27	Chittagong	2,492	2	1,384	302,859	8,633	294,226
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	5,138	...	401	26,679	.....	26,679
	(2) Feudatory States ...	***5,393***	***5***	***3,513***	***158,446***	***5,137***	***153,309***
29	Cooch Bihar	1,307	4	1,197	113,801	3,629	110,172
30	Hill Tippera	4,086	1	2,316	44,645	1,508	43,137

POPULATION.									Serial No.
PERSONS.			MALES.			FEMALES.			
Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	
46,305,642	*2,968,247*	*43,337,395*	*23,803,593*	*1,820,065*	*21,983,528*	*22,502,049*	*1,148,182*	*21,353,867*	
45,483,077	*2,945,622*	*42,537,455*	*23,365,225*	*1,805,560*	*21,559,665*	*22,117,852*	*1,140,062*	*20,977,790*	
8,467,314	*615,260*	*7,852,054*	*4,261,925*	*359,075*	*3,902,850*	*4,205,389*	*256,185*	*3 949,204*	
1,538,371	94,186	1,444,185	770,324	51,944	718,380	768,047	42,242	725,805	1
935,473	9,131	926,342	463,838	4,907	458,931	471,635	4,224	467,411	2
1,138,670	57,206	1,081,464	562,585	28,435	534,150	576.085	28 771	547,314	3
2.821,201	101,855	2,719,346	1,410,714	55,153	1,355,561	1,410,487	46,702	1,363,785	4
1,090,097	151,482	938,615	555.823	89,853	465,970	534,274	61,629	472,645	5
943,502	201,400	742,102	498,641	128,783	369,858	444.861	72,617	372,244	6
9,445,321	*1,674,331*	*7,770,990*	*5,014,917*	*1,060,797*	*3,954,120*	*4,430,404*	*613,534*	*3,816,870*	
2,434,104	548,514	1,885,590	1,305,700	334,850	970,850	1,128,404	213,664	914,740	7
896,067	896,067	.....	607,674	607,674	.....	288,393	288,393	.....	8
1,617,846	95,918	1,521,928	812,580	47,081	765,499	805,266	48,837	756,429	9
1,372,274	83,483	1,288,791	678,292	43,007	635,285	693,982	40.476	653,506	10
1,758,264	21,198	1,737,066	901,092	11,793	889,299	857,172	9,405	847,767	11
1,366,766	29,151	1,337,615	709,579	16,392	693,187	657,187	12,759	644,428	12
10,138,302	*218,856*	*9,919,446*	*5,256,785*	*124,232*	*5,132,553*	*4,881,517*	*94,624*	*4,786,893*	
1,480,587	31.657	1,448,930	755,206	17,566	737,640	725,381	14,091	711,290	13
1,687,863	15,945	1,671,918	889,876	9,648	880,228	797,987	6,297	791,690	14
902,660	11,765	890,895	490,228	7,547	482,681	412,432	4,218	408,214	15
265,550	24,579	240,971	142,094	14,757	127,337	123,456	9,822	113,634	16
2,385,330	36,264	2,349,066	1,254,717	23,083	1,231,634	1,130,613	13,181	1,117,432	17
983,567	13,201	970,366	502,526	7,506	495,020	481,041	5,695	475,346	18
1,428,586	44,051	1,384,535	723,591	23,292	700,299	704,995	20,759	684,236	19
1,004,159	41,394	962,765	498,547	20,833	477,714	505,612	20,561	485,051	20
12,037,649	*339,318*	*11,698,331*	*6,137,087*	*201,764*	*5,935,323*	*5,900,562*	*137,554*	*5,763,008*	
2,960,402	136.427	2,823,975	1,477,690	81,829	1,395,861	1,482,712	54,598	1,428,114	21
4,526,422	122,069	4,404,353	2,339,603	69,094	2,270,509	2,186,819	52,975	2,133,844	22
2,121,914	32,204	2,089,710	1.074,959	16,566	1,058,393	1,046,955	13,638	1,033,317	23
2,428,911	48,618	2,380,293	1,244,835	32,275	1,212,560	1,184,076	16,343	1,167,733	24
5,394,491	*97,857*	*5,296,634*	*2,694,511*	*59,692*	*2,634,819*	*2,699,980*	*38,165*	*2,661,815*	
2,430,138	57,704	2.372 434	1,243,081	34,439	1,208,642	1,187,057	23,265	1,163,792	25
1,302,090	7,009	1,295,081	645,898	4,366	641,532	656,192	2,643	653.549	26
1,508,433	33,144	1.475,289	722,837	20,887	701,950	785,596	12,257	773,339	27
153,830	.....	153,830	82,695	.....	82,695	71,135	.....	71,135	28
822,565	*22,625*	*799,940*	*438,368*	*14,505*	*423,863*	*384,197*	*8,120*	*376,077*	
592,952	15,794	577,158	316,548	10,329	306,219	276,404	5,465	270,939	29
229,613	6.831	222,782	121.820	4.176	117,644	107,793	2,655	105,138	30

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TABLE II.—VARIATION IN

Serial No.	DISTRICT OR STATE.	PERSONS.					
		1911.	1901.	1891.	1881.	1872.	1901—1911.
	BENGAL	**46,305,642**	**42,881,776**	**39,805,942**	**37,014,989**	**34,687,292**	+ **3,423,866**
	(1) British Territory	**45,483,077**	**42,141,477**	**39,089,632**	**36,316,728**	**34,119,465**	+ **3,341,600**
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	**8,467,314**	**8,240,076**	**7,689,189**	**7,393,954**	**7,604,661**	+ **227,238**
1	Burdwan	1,538,371	1,532,716	1,392,099	1,394,439	1,486,634	+ 5,655
2	Birbhum	935,473	902,280	798,254	792,031	851,235	+ 33,193
3	Bankura	1,138,670	1,116,411	1,069,668	1,041,752	968,597	+ 22,259
4	Midnapore	2,821,201	2,789,114	2,631,466	2,515,565	2,542,920	+ 32,087
5	Hooghly	1,090,097	1,049,041	1,034,077	974,773	1,119,397	+ 41,056
6	Howrah	943,502	850,514	763,625	675,394	635,878	+ 92,988
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	**9,445,321**	**8,983,818**	**8,525,463**	**8,202,780**	**7,419,261**	+ **461,503**
7	24-Parganas	2,434,104	2,078,359	1,891,288	1,690,771	1,581,448	+ 355,745
8	Calcutta	896,067	847,796	682,305	612,307	633,009	+ 48,271
9	Nadia	1,617,846	1,658,281	1,634,445	1,653,589	1,492,315	— 40,435
10	Murshidabad	1,372,274	1,333,184	1,250,946	1,226,790	1,214,104	+ 39,090
11	Jessore	1,758,264	1,813,155	1,888,827	1,939,375	1,451,507	— 54,891
12	Khulna	1,366,766	1,253,043	1,177,652	1,079,948	1,046,878	+ 113,723
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	**10,138,302**	**9,373,620**	**8,826,960**	**8,431,592**	**8,045,432**	+ **764,682**
13	Rajshahi	1,480,587	1,460,584	1,437,859	1,449 033	1,421,865	+ 20,003
14	Dinajpur	1,687,863	1,566,845	1,482,355	1,442,320	1,429,900	+ 121,018
15	Jalpaiguri	902,660	786,326	679,623	579,373	416,781	+ 116,334
16	Darjeeling	265,550	249,117	223,314	155,645	94,996	+ 16,433
17	Rangpur	2,385,330	2,154,115	2,065,249	2,097,553	2,153.061	+ 231,215
18	Bogra	983,567	853,504	763,574	686,185	641,281	+ 130,063
19	Pabna	1,428,586	1,421,395	1,362,225	1,311,649	1,211,570	+ 7,191
20	Malda	1,004,159	881,734	812,761	709,834	675,978	+ 122,425
	DACCA DIVISION ...	**12,037,649**	**10,806,232**	**9,857,939**	**8,719,331**	**7,608,681**	+ **1,231,417**
21	Dacca	2,960,402	2,644,435	2,390,816	2,087,041	1,824,867	+ 315,967
22	Mymensingh	4,526,422	3,918,102	3,475,166	3,058,322	2,354,794	+ 608,320
23	Faridpur	2,121,914	1,951,943	1,837,992	1,673,079	1,541,434	+ 169,971
24	Backergunge	2,428,911	2,291,752	2,153,965	1,900,889	1,887,586	+ 137,159
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	**5,394,491**	**4,737,731**	**4,190,081**	**3,569,071**	**3,441,430**	+ **656,760**
25	Tippera	2,430,138	2,117,991	1,782,935	1,514,361	1,404,045	+ 312,147
26	Noakhali	1,302,090	1,141,728	1,009.693	820,772	840,376	+ 160,362
27	Chittagong	1,508.433	1,353,250	1,290,167	1,132,341	1,127,402	+ 155,183
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	153,830	124,762	107,286	101,597	69,607	+ 29,068
	(2) Feudatory States.	**822,565**	**740,299**	**716,310**	**698,261**	**567,827**	+ **82,266**
29	Cooch Behar	592,952	566,974	578,868	602,624	532,565	+ 25,978
30	Hill Tippera	229,613	173,325	137,442	95,637	35,262	+ 56,288

POPULATION SINCE 1872.

VARIATION. INCREASE (+), DECREASE (-).			NET VARIATION IN PERIOD 1872—1911. Increase (+), Decrease (-).	MALES.				Serial No.
1891—1901.	1881—1891.	1872—1881.		1911.	1901.	1891.	1881.	
+ 3,075,834	*+ 2,790,953*	*+ 2,327,697*	*+ 11,618,350*	*23,803,593*	*21,882,142*	*20,171,810*	*18,567,150*	
+ 3,051,845	*+ 2,772,904*	*+ 2,197,263*	*+ 11,363,612*	*23,365,225*	*21,488,265*	*19,797,757*	*18,204,014*	
+ 550,887	*+ 295,235*	*- 210,707*	*+ 862,653*	*4,261,925*	*4,116,952*	*3,800,758*	*3,606,699*	
+ 140,617	- 2,340	- 92,195	+ 51,737	770,324	764,842	682,962	669,545	1
+ 104,026	+ 6,223	- 59,204	+ 84,238	463,838	444,689	389,842	380,403	2
+ 46,743	+ 27,916	+ 73,155	+ 170,073	562,585	549,484	525,941	507,136	3
+ 157,648	+ 115,901	- 27,355	+ 278,281	1,410,714	1,390,233	1,308,074	1,243,195	4
+ 14,964	+ 59,304	- 144,624	- 29,300	555,823	528,179	509,095	470,616	5
+ 86,889	+ 88,231	+ 39,516	+ 307,624	498,641	439,525	384,844	335,804	6
+ 458,355	*+ 322,683*	*+ 783,519*	*+ 2,026,060*	*5,014,917*	*4,699,345*	*4,398,477*	*4,183,287*	
+ 187,071	+ 200,517	+ 109,323	+ 852,656	1,305,700	1,092,916	988,862	870,794	7
+ 165,491	+ 69,998	- 20,702	+ 263,058	607,674	562,596	447,162	393,453	8
+ 23,836	- 19,144	+ 161,274	+ 125,531	812,580	822,992	797,473	804,884	9
+ 2,238	+ 24,156	+ 12,686	+ 158,170	678,292	653,346	605,665	586,483	10
- 75,672	- 50,548	+ 487,868	+ 306,757	901,092	914,025	941,334	959,271	11
+ 75,391	+ 97,704	+ 33,070	+ 319,888	709,579	653,470	617,981	568,402	12
+ 546,660	*+ 395,368*	*+ 386,160*	*+ 2,092,870*	*5,256,785*	*4,828,178*	*4,509,006*	*4,266,368*	
+ 22,725	- 11,174	+ 27,168	+ 58,722	755,206	740,764	718,401	715,363	13
+ 84,490	+ 40,035	+ 12,420	+ 257,963	889,876	823,852	774,269	746,276	14
+ 106,703	+ 100,250	+ 162,592	+ 485,879	490,228	422,350	363,769	304,295	15
+ 25,803	+ 67,669	+ 60,649	+ 170,554	142,094	133,005	128,046	89,351	16
+ 88,866	- 32,304	- 55,508	+ 232,269	1,254,717	1,124,291	1,061,724	1,067,527	17
+ 89,930	+ 77,389	+ 44,904	+ 342,286	502,526	436,871	391,169	348,564	18
+ 59,170	+ 50,576	+ 100,079	+ 217,016	723,591	709,848	677,741	648,258	19
+ 68,973	+ 102,927	+ 33,856	+ 328,181	498,547	436,497	398,887	346,734	20
+ 948,293	*+ 1,138,608*	*+ 1,110,650*	*+ 4,428,968*	*6,137,087*	*5,479,394*	*4,993,556*	*4,375,767*	
+ 253,619	+ 303,775	+ 262,174	+ 1,135,535	1,477,690	1,309,733	1,185,503	1,019,208	21
+ 442,936	+ 416,844	+ 703,528	+ 2,171,628	2,339,603	2,016,393	1,790,106	1,556,531	22
+ 113,951	+ 164,913	+ 131,645	+ 580,480	1,074,959	977,365	913,504	826,549	23
+ 137,787	+ 253,076	+ 13,303	+ 541,325	1,244,835	1,175,903	1,104,443	973,479	24
+ 547,650	*+ 621,010*	*+ 127,641*	*+ 1,953,061*	*2,694,511*	*2,364,396*	*2,095,960*	*1,771,893*	
+ 335,056	+ 268,574	+ 110,316	+ 1,026,093	1,243,081	1,065,989	911,799	768,450	25
+ 132,035	+ 188,921	- 19,604	+ 461,714	645,898	568,777	508,727	415,248	26
+ 63,083	+ 157,826	+ 4,939	+ 381,031	722,837	641,392	615,868	531,649	27
+ 17,476	+ 5,689	+ 31,990	+ 84,223	82,695	68,238	59,566	56,546	28
+ 23,989	*+ 18,049*	*+ 130,434*	*+ 254,738*	*438,368*	*393,877*	*374,053*	*363,136*	
11,894	- 23,756	+ 70,059	+ 60,387	316,548	301,382	302,457	311,678	29
+ 35,883	+ 41,805	+ 60,375	+ 194,351	121,820	92,495	71,596	51,458	30

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TABLE II.—Variation in Population since 1872—*concluded.*

Serial No.	District or State.	MALES.	FEMALES.				
		1872.	1911.	1901.	1891.	1881.	1872.
	BENGAL ...	***17,409,055***	***22,502,049***	***20,999,634***	***19,634,132***	***18,447,839***	***17,278,237***
	(1) British Territory	***17,112,208***	***22,117,852***	***20,653,212***	***19,291,875***	***18,112,714***	***17,007,257***
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	***3,726,489***	***4,205,389***	***4,123,124***	***3,888,431***	***3,787,255***	***3,878,172***
1	Burdwan	727,436	768,047	767,874	709,137	724,894	759,198
2	Birbhum	407,303	471,635	457,591	408,412	411,628	443,932
3	Bankura	480,339	576,085	566,927	543,727	534,616	488,258
4	Midnapore	1,258,169	1,410,437	1,398,881	1,323,392	1,272,370	1,284,751
5	Hooghly	541,159	534,274	520,862	524,982	504,157	578,238
6	Howrah	312,083	444,861	410,989	378,781	339,590	323,795
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION ...	***3,792,972***	***4,430,404***	***4,284,473***	***4,126,986***	***4,019,493***	***3,626,289***
7	24-Parganas	803,259	1,128,404	985,443	902,426	819,977	778,189
8	Calcutta	407,742	288,393	285,200	235,143	218,854	225,267
9	Nadia	725,134	805,266	835,289	836,972	848,705	767,181
10	Murshidabad	580,165	693,932	679,838	645,281	640,307	633,939
11	Jessore	715,943	857,172	899,180	947,493	980,104	735,564
12	Khulna	560,729	657,187	559,573	559,671	511,546	486,149
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	***4,069,487***	***4,881,517***	***4,545,442***	***4,317,954***	***4,165,224***	***3,975,945***
13	Rajshahi	708,159	725,381	719,820	719,458	733,670	715,706
14	Dinajpur	740,417	797,987	742,993	708,086	696,044	689,483
15	Jalpaiguri	215,958	412,432	363,976	315,854	275,078	200,823
16	Darjeeling	53,199	123,456	116,112	100,268	66,294	41,797
17	Rangpur	1,096,610	1,130,613	1,029,124	1,003,525	1,030,020	1,056,451
18	Bogra	333,763	481,041	416,633	372,405	337,691	317,518
19	Pabna	602,487	704,995	711,547	684,484	663,391	609,083
20	Malda	330,894	505,613	445,237	413,874	363,100	345,084
	DACCA DIVISION ...	***3,803,547***	***5,900,562***	***5,326,838***	***4,864,383***	***4,343,564***	***3,805,134***
21	Dacca	891,772	1,482,713	1,334,702	1,205,318	1,067,833	933,095
22	Mymensingh	1,190,360	2,186,819	1,901,709	1,685,060	1,501,791	1,164,434
23	Faridpur	756,112	1,043,955	974,578	924,488	846,530	785,332
24	Backergunge	965,303	1,184,076	1,115,849	1,049,523	927,410	922,283
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	***1,719,713***	***2,699,980***	***2,373,335***	***2,094,121***	***1,797,178***	***1,721,717***
25	Tippera	716,816	1,187,057	1,032,002	871,136	745,911	687,229
26	Noakhali	425,955	656,192	572,951	500,966	405,624	414,421
27	Chittagong	536,059	785,596	711,858	674,299	600,692	591,343
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	40,883	71,135	56,524	47,720	45,051	28,724
	(2) Feudatory States	***296,847***	***384,197***	***346,422***	***342,257***	***335,125***	***270,980***
29	Cooch Behar	278,585	276,404	265,592	276,411	290,946	253,980
30	Hill Tippera	18,262	107,793	80,830	65,846	44,179	17,000

TABLE III.—RELIGIONS.

Serial No.	DISTRICT OR STATE,	POPULATION.			HINDU.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
	Bengal	***46,305,642***	***23,803,593***	***22,502,049***	***20,945,379***	***10,848,217***	***10,097,162***
	(1) British Territory ...	***45,483,077***	***23,365,225***	***22,117,852***	***20,377,793***	***10,545,714***	***9,832,079***
	BURDWAN DIVISION	***8,467,314***	***4,261,925***	***4,205,389***	***6,971,160***	***3,510,259***	***3,460,901***
1	Burdwan	1,538,371	770,324	768,047	1,220,551	609,485	611,066
2	Birbhum	935,473	463,838	471,635	657,053	325,364	331,689
3	Bankura	1,138,670	562,585	576,085	990,161	488,848	501,313
4	Midnapore	2,821,201	1,410,714	1,410,487	2,477,272	1,240,620	1,236,652
5	Hooghly	1,090,097	555,823	534,274	883,840	451,784	432,056
6	Howrah	943,502	496,641	444,861	742,283	394,158	348,125
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	***9,445,321***	***5,014,917***	***4,430,404***	***4,761,764***	***2,557,229***	***2,204,535***
7	24-Parganas	2,434,104	1,305,700	1,128,404	1,525,886	822,858	703,028
8	Calcutta	896,067	607,674	288,393	604,853	404,528	200,325
9	Nadia	1,617,846	812,580	805,266	642,651	322,018	320,633
10	Murshidabad	1,372,274	678,292	693,982	643,291	320,270	323,021
11	Jessore	1,758,264	901,092	857,172	667,936	336,438	331,503
12	Khulna	1,366,766	709,579	657,187	677,147	351,122	326,025
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	***10,138,302***	***5,256,785***	***4,881,517***	***3,602,148***	***1,913,486***	***1,688,662***
13	Rajshahi	1,480,587	755,206	725,381	315,640	164,998	150,642
14	Dinajpur	1,687,863	889,876	797,987	759,309	406,872	352,437
15	Jalpaiguri	902,660	490,228	412,432	547,327	300,227	247,100
16	Darjeeling	265,550	142,094	123,456	189,617	101,840	87,777
17	Rangpur	2,385,330	1,254,717	1,130,613	803,784	435,136	368,648
18	Bogra	983,567	502,526	481,041	166,696	89,834	76,862
19	Pabna	1,428,586	723,591	704,995	354,254	180,732	173,522
20	Malda	1,004,159	498,547	505,612	465,521	233,847	231,674
	DACCA DIVISION	***12,037,649***	***6,137,087***	***5,900,562***	***3,708,377***	***1,891,484***	***1,816,893***
21	Dacca	2,960,402	1,477,690	1,482,712	1,052,256	523,069	529,187
22	Mymensingh	4,526,422	2,339,603	2,186,819	1,161,585	613,770	547,815
23	Faridpur	2,121,914	1,074,959	1,046,955	774,979	386,442	388,537
24	Backergunge	2,428,911	1,244,835	1,184,076	719,557	368,203	351,354
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***5,394,491***	***2,694,511***	***2,699,980***	***1,334,344***	***673,256***	***661,088***
25	Tippera	2,430,138	1,243,081	1,187,057	672,670	343,521	329,149
26	Noakhali	1,302,090	645,898	656,192	300,246	151,571	148,675
27	Chittagong	1,508,433	722,637	785,596	347,189	169,772	177,417
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	153,830	82,695	71,135	14,239	8,392	5,847
	(2) Feudatory States ...	***822,565***	***438,368***	***384,197***	***567,586***	***302,603***	***264,983***
29	Cooch Behar	592,952	316,548	276,404	409,485	219,463	190,022
30	Hill Tippera	229,613	121,820	107,793	158,101	83,040	75,061

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TABLE III.—

Serial No.	District or State.	BUDDHIST.			MUSALMAN.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
	BENGAL	***246,866***	***125,388***	***121,478***	***24,237,228***	***12,377,215***	***11 860,013***
	(1) British Territory ...	***240,854***	***122,212***	***118,642***	***23,989,719***	***12,245.542***	***11,744,177***
	BURDWAN DIVISION	***118***	***115***	***3***	***1,138,052***	***571,234***	***566,818***
1	Burdwan	7	7	.....	290,381	146,574	143,807
2	Birbhum	.....	.....	.....	222,787	110,336	112,451
3	Bankura	.....	.....	.....	51,707	25,845	25,862
4	Midnapore	.....	.....	.....	193,569	96,209	97,360
5	Hooghly	31	30	1	184,009	91,670	92,339
6	Howrah	80	78	2	195,599	100,600	94,999
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	***2,569***	***2,040***	***529***	***4,571,400***	***2,394,768***	***2,176,632***
7	24-Parganas	207	185	22	879,547	466,490	413,057
8	Calcutta	2,343	1,837	506	241,587	173,785	67,802
9	Nadia	6	5	1	963,119	484,355	478,764
10	Murshidabad	5	5	.....	713,152	350,132	363,020
11	Jessore	.....	.....	.....	1,087,554	563,257	524,297
12	Khulna	8	8	.....	686,441	356,749	329,692
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	***56,008***	***28,638***	***27,370***	***6,177,481***	***3,157,160***	***3,020,321***
13	Rajshahi	9	9	.....	1,148,314	581,669	566,645
14	Dinajpur	.....	.....	.....	824,345	429,946	394,399
15	Jalpaiguri	8,054	4,205	3,849	237,456	128,193	109,263
16	Darjeeling	47,905	24,389	23,516	9,450	5,775	3,675
17	Rangpur	29	25	4	1,569,090	812,402	756,688
18	Bogra	.....	.....	.....	810,352	409,319	401,033
19	Pabna	11	10	1	1,073,078	542,016	531,062
20	Malda	.....	.....	.....	505,396	247,840	257,556
	DACCA DIVISION	***8,965***	***4,734***	***4,231***	***8,252,611***	***4,206,703***	***4,045,908***
21	Dacca	111	80	31	1,893,470	947,437	946,033
22	Mymensingh	26	26	.....	3,324,146	1,705,129	1,619,017
23	Faridpur	.....	.....	.....	1,341,090	685,478	655,612
24	Backergunge	8,828	4,628	4,200	1,693,905	868,659	825,246
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***173,194***	***86,685***	***86,509***	***3,850,175***	***1,915,677***	***1,934,498***
25	Tippera	1,581	786	795	1,755,400	898,503	856,897
26	Noakhali	426	246	180	1,000,653	493,701	506,952
27	Chittagong	70,010	32,449	37,561	1,089,024	519,413	569,611
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	101,177	53,204	47,973	5,098	4,060	1,038
	(2) Feudatory States ...	***6,012***	***3,176***	***2,836***	***247,509***	***131,673***	***115,836***
29	Cooch Behar	15	6	9	182,556	96,378	86,178
30	Hill Tippera	5,997	3,170	2,827	64,953	*35,295	29,658

* Others include :—Jain 6,782 (males—5,335, females—1,447). Brahmo 2,958 (males—1,520, females—1,438), Sikh 2,221 (males—1,775, females—446),

RELIGIONS—*concluded.*

CHRISTIAN.			ANIMIST.			OTHERS.[c]			Serial No.
Person.	Male.	Female.	Person.	Male.	Female.	Person.	Male.	Female.	
129,746	*70,260*	*59,486*	*730,780*	*371,581*	*359,199*	*15,643*	*10,932*	*4,711*	
129,518	*70,127*	*59,391*	*730,182*	*371,248*	*358,934*	*15,011*	*10,382*	*4,629*	
13,782	*7,545*	*6,237*	*342,604*	*171,709*	*170,895*	*1,598*	*1,063*	*535*	
3,820	2,055	1,765	23,383	12,069	11,314	229	134	95	1
813	419	394	54,592	27,550	27,042	228	169	59	2
1,012	530	482	95,777	47,356	48,421	13	6	7	3
4,166	2,229	1,937	145,437	71,131	74,306	757	525	232	4
831	501	330	21,288	11,783	9,505	78	55	23	5
3,120	1,811	1,309	2,127	1,820	307	293	174	119	6
68,088	*37,907*	*30,181*	*32,084*	*16,847*	*15,237*	*9,416*	*6,126*	*3,290*	
16,027	8,914	7,113	11,811	6,761	5,050	626	492	134	7
39,551	22,472	17,079	56	39	17	7,677	5,013	2,664	8
9,132	4,717	4,415	2,861	1,428	1,433	77	57	20	9
413	202	211	14,419	7,141	7,278	994	542	452	10
1,272	652	620	1,475	738	737	27	12	15	11
1,693	950	743	1,462	740	722	15	10	5	12
17,167	*9,422*	*7,745*	*282,770*	*145,708*	*137,062*	*2,728*	*2,371*	*357*	
323	163	160	16,195	8,296	7,899	106	71	35	13
1,964	1,019	945	102,031	51,866	50,165	214	173	41	14
5,501	2,928	2,573	104,005	54,421	49,584	317	254	63	15
7,689	4,377	3,312	10,778	5,622	5,156	111	91	20	16
559	336	263	10,421	5,532	4,889	1,407	1,286	121	17
161	91	70	6,154	3,124	3,030	204	158	46	18
500	296	204	406	224	182	337	313	24	19
430	212	218	32,780	16,623	16,157	32	25	7	20
27,726	*13,773*	*13,953*	*39,003*	*19,733*	*19,270*	*967*	*660*	*307*	
13,194	6,320	6,874	1,039	615	424	332	169	163	21
2,181	1,143	1,038	37,962	19,116	18,846	522	419	103	22
5,810	3,015	2,795	...	...	...	35	24	11	23
6,541	3,295	3,246	2	2	...	78	48	30	24
2,755	*1,480*	*1,275*	*33,271*	*17,251*	*16,470*	*302*	*162*	*140*	
410	236	174	...	...	...	77	35	42	25
743	370	373	...	...	...	22	10	12	26
1,430	784	646	577	302	275	203	117	86	27
172	90	82	33,144	16,949	16,195	...	...	...	28
228	*133*	*95*	*598*	*333*	*265*	*632*	*550*	*82*	
90	58	32	190	105	85	616	538	78	29
138	75	63	408	228	180	16	12	4	30

Jew 1,993 (males—982, females—1,011), Parsi 611 (males—403, females—208) and Minor—1,078 (males—917, females—161).

TABLE IV.—Age, Sex and

Serial No.	District.	All ages. Unmarried. Male.	Unmarried. Female.	Married. Male.	Married. Female.	Widowed. Male.	Widowed. Female.	Unmarried. Male.	Unmarried. Female
	BENGAL	***12,170,320***	***7,560,825***	***10,797 166***	***10,424,322***	***836,107***	***4,516,902***	***3.192,181***	***3,364,396***
	(1) British Territory	***11,943,838***	***7,425,421***	***10,608,998***	***10,255,111***	***812,389***	***4,437,320***	***3,135,067***	***3,303,563***
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	***2,040,977***	***1,140,175***	***2,023,570***	***1,987,169***	***197,378***	***1,078,045***	***493,238***	***515,016***
1	Burdwan	352,976	200,112	378,841	365,079	38,507	202,856	84,454	87,953
2	Birbhum	207,516	132,876	233,707	231,191	22,615	107,568	53,655	57,465
3	Bankura	283,599	162,228	255,288	274,247	23,698	139,610	67,920	71,847
4	Midnapore	713,166	388,842	632,198	658,385	65,350	363,260	165,635	174,166
5	Hooghly	254,766	134,776	272,260	243,782	28,797	155,716	64,117	64,866
6	Howrah	228,954	121,341	251,276	214,485	18,411	109,035	57,457	58,719
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION ...	***2,381,372***	***1,278,865***	***2,444,807***	***2,108,858***	***188,738***	***1,042,681***	***592,786***	***618,746***
7	24-Parganas	587,437	321,307	672,988	565,728	45,275	241,369	152,629	160,205
8	Calcutta	206,146	81,896	379,924	133,784	21,604	72,713	32,125	30,092
9	Nadia	428,184	222,789	353.617	372,193	30,779	210,284	111,660	115,488
10	Murshidabad	340,456	206,681	315,160	320,967	22,676	166,334	97,498	100,924
11	Jessore	460,285	232,058	401,071	403,660	39,736	221,454	106,308	110,536
12	Khulna	358,864	214,134	322,047	312,526	28,668	130,527	92,566	101,501
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	***2,706,982***	***1,754,289***	***2,360,996***	***2,241,537***	***188,807***	***885,691***	***737,376***	***788,237***
13	Rajshahi	380,513	230,785	349,542	345,851	25,151	148,745	103,559	109,758
14	Dinajpur	460,379	312,603	391,900	357,527	37,597	127,857	123,406	133,152
15	Jalpaiguri	248,790	162,169	215,839	187,679	25,599	62,584	62,711	65,618
16	Darjeeling	73,249	57,492	63,626	53,859	5,219	12,105	17,218	17,260
17	Rangpur	650,487	393,268	555,282	518,429	48,948	218,916	175,041	187,705
18	Bogra	260,467	184,130	228,702	227,875	13,357	69,036	76,575	84,640
19	Pabna	378,046	233,131	327,014	325,995	18,531	145,869	98,968	106,526
20	Malda	255,051	180,711	229,091	224,322	14,405	100,579	79,908	83,578
	DACCA DIVISION ...	***3,268,700***	***2,162,468***	***2,690,265***	***2,713,249***	***178,122***	***1,024,845***	***897,897***	***953,617***
21	Dacca	800,513	550,138	639,017	667,670	38,160	264,904	227,099	241,797
22	Mymensingh	1,297,007	869,854	984,377	978,498	68,219	388,467	346,678	373,992
23	Faridpur	551,961	336,452	489,263	496,590	33,735	213,913	159,876	166,424
24	Backergunge	619,219	406,024	577,608	570,491	48,008	207,561	164,244	171,404
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***1,545,807***	***1,089,624***	***1,089,360***	***1,204,298***	***59,344***	***406,058***	***413,770***	***427,947***
25	Tippera	689,891	475,327	527,028	543,957	26,162	167,773	179,445	191,887
26	Noakhali	375,505	273,801	256,619	292,636	13.774	89,755	106,450	107,878
27	Chittagong	435,769	304,538	270,764	337,317	16,304	148,741	116,808	117,821
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	44,642	35,958	34,949	30,388	3,104	4,789	11,072	10,911
	(2) Feudatory States	***226,482***	***135,404***	***188,168***	***169,211***	***23,718***	***79,582***	***57,114***	***60,833***
29	Cooch Behar	161,818	88,607	135.487	120,861	19,243	66,936	40,001	42,860
30	Hill Tippera	64,664	46,797	52,681	48,350	4,475	12,646	17,113	17,953

Civil Condition.

0—5.				5—10.						10—15.		Serial No.
Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
4,711	***15,622***	***131***	***1,847***	***3,610,925***	***3,173,139***	***41,546***	***349,662***	***1,411***	***16,099***	***2,646,969***	***831,059***	
4,660	***15,362***	***130***	***1,828***	***3,544,385***	***3,116,188***	***41,100***	***341,749***	***1,392***	***15,755***	***2,603,517***	***817,184***	
1,083	***3,273***	***32***	***333***	***584,708***	***482,528***	***5,200***	***78,982***	***207***	***3,502***	***475,145***	***110,141***	
159	522	4	58	101,675	85,767	1,242	12,746	52	615	84,811	21,070	1
65	232	3	25	68,992	57,010	959	10,444	32	401	49,158	15,110	2
388	1,128	4	78	85,019	69,385	568	13,467	29	731	68,558	16,648	3
227	825	1	116	201,592	164,293	1,474	26,520	57	1,058	162,651	37,215	4
170	383	9	43	66,588	55,068	544	8,734	18	463	57,883	11,791	5
74	183	11	13	60,842	51,005	413	7,071	19	234	52,084	8,307	6
1,733	***5,807***	***44***	***670***	***657,729***	***526,331***	***11,840***	***91,238***	***353***	***3,726***	***534,186***	***101,397***	
539	1,695	7	151	174,423	135,357	4,483	29,245	121	974	131,460	19,729	7
146	187	4	24	34,603	30,297	784	1,531	13	81	38,675	11,715	8
227	586	7	104	113,109	88,599	585	13,675	30	498	99,552	15,793	9
296	673	7	115	99,553	85,196	3,342	14,195	81	686	77,907	16,586	10
244	1,590	14	165	124,891	94,305	1,450	18,769	75	901	107,474	21,055	11
281	1,126	5	111	111,150	92,577	1,196	13,823	33	586	79,118	16,519	12
670	***1,930***	***21***	***308***	***866,866***	***751,050***	***10,792***	***79,307***	***361***	***3,830***	***530,602***	***162,555***	
40	152	4	15	123,569	102,700	2,775	13,770	56	762	81,035	15,838	13
183	390	4	103	153,095	134,340	1,728	12,826	74	553	85,496	29,209	14
48	81	...	7	70,817	64,147	1,743	3,540	37	231	46,948	23,266	15
90	107	2	5	18,070	17,442	206	294	10	33	15,501	12,964	16
175	504	9	108	206,221	173,474	1,921	21,800	93	1,127	121,528	27,036	17
41	293	...	30	92,478	82,171	783	7,470	21	261	47,359	14,819	18
23	115	...	22	119,722	103,485	614	10,963	29	532	80,287	20,193	19
70	288	2	13	82,894	73,291	1,022	8,644	41	331	52,448	19,230	20
1,126	***4,136***	***33***	***497***	***975,102***	***910,858***	***11,438***	***73,688***	***446***	***4,018***	***711,238***	***260,017***	
288	471	10	55	239,278	226,545	1,851	11,862	60	768	179,280	72,553	21
249	804	2	109	396,238	381,074	2,501	19,881	68	973	269,302	98,432	22
297	1,656	4	188	154,436	130,496	2,593	20,804	89	1,097	123,367	34,315	23
292	1,205	17	145	185,150	172,743	4,493	21,141	229	1,180	140,289	54,717	24
48	***216***	...	***20***	***459,980***	***445,421***	***1,830***	***18,534***	***25***	***679***	***352,346***	***183,074***	
39	120	...	14	206,055	198,571	981	12,482	16	338	155,111	73,758	25
4	84	...	6	117,984	115,511	497	4,200	5	223	86,768	44,345	26
...	12	...	...	123,681	119,556	306	1,811	4	110	100,775	56,664	27
5	...	...	...	12,260	11,783	46	41	...	8	9,692	8,307	28
51	***260***	***1***	***19***	***66,540***	***56,951***	***446***	***7,913***	***19***	***344***	***43,452***	***13,875***	
51	257	1	19	47,603	38,913	345	7,533	15	325	30,252	5,812	29
...	3	...	...	18,937	18,038	101	380	4	19	13,200	8,063	30

Chap. I. PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TABLE IV.—Age, Sex and

Serial No.	District or State.	10—15.				15—20.			
		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	BENGAL	*165,192*	*1,322,514*	*4,459*	*53,178*	*1,486,351*	*97,050*	*564,870*	*2,039,642*
	(1) British Territory	*163,322*	*1,302,687*	*4,401*	*52,234*	*1,458,982*	*94,584*	*556,772*	*2,007,066*
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	*35,996*	*282,237*	*929*	*14,741*	*270,819*	*15,147*	*131,797*	*390,101*
1	Burdwan	7,239	53,016	241	2,535	45,194	2,112	24,866	71,330
2	Birbhum	6,340	30,669	155	1,479	21,755	1,714	19,713	42,898
3	Bankura	4,681	39,889	98	2,056	36,146	2,320	19,383	52,288
4	Midnapore	9,862	90,663	221	5,235	100,718	6,237	38,553	132,349
5	Hooghly	3,468	35,767	85	2,144	34,978	1,162	14,761	48,945
6	Howrah	4,406	32,233	129	1,292	32,028	1,602	14,521	42,291
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	*37,851*	*311,109*	*999*	*13,085*	*312,921*	*10,183*	*132,364*	*403,549*
7	24-Parganas	13,647	83,272	220	3,192	68,850	1,843	43,557	109,276
8	Calcutta	4,721	12,086	82	464	38,609	2,652	17,347	21,708
9	Nadia	2,929	58,174	74	2,511	58,427	900	14,298	68,100
10	Murshidabad	6,243	48,585	207	2,242	40,396	1,583	21,803	60,089
11	Jessore	5,111	62,204	260	2,984	63,428	2,205	17,322	77,590
12	Khulna	5,200	46,788	156	1,602	43,211	995	18,037	66,786
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	*38,504*	*264,823*	*1,124*	*10,499*	*292,728*	*25,275*	*119,444*	*418,763*
13	Rajshahi	7,390	48,233	228	2,266	38,734	1,126	21,558	65,173
14	Dinajpur	6,387	37,412	289	1,363	50,402	5,838	18,739	68,163
15	Jalpaiguri	3,152	14,707	76	612	28,997	5,318	7,791	31,165
16	Darjeeling	842	1,348	17	43	10,153	6,154	2,217	5,072
17	Rangpur	8,393	66,859	218	2,764	69,104	2,205	23,640	99,892
18	Bogra	2,949	26,799	73	760	27,074	1,096	12,718	46,171
19	Pabna	3,342	40,280	60	1,436	44,212	1,346	14,084	61,230
20	Malda	6,049	29,185	163	1,255	24,052	2,192	18,697	41,897
	DACCA DIVISION ...	*41,412*	*332,029*	*1,213*	*10,626*	*386,510*	*21,098*	*130,177*	*548,296*
21	Dacca	7,003	75,769	138	2,325	92,260	5,503	28,423	132,168
22	Mymensingh	9,776	111,808	130	2,984	152,523	10,076	43,656	200,654
23	Faridpur	9,135	70,645	300	2,595	66,164	2,067	25,590	96,472
24	Backergunge	15,498	73,807	645	2,722	75,563	3,452	32,208	119,002
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*9,559*	*112,489*	*136*	*3,283*	*196,004*	*22,881*	*42,990*	*246,357*
25	Tippera	5,272	54,747	67	1,423	86,780	6,834	23,052	112,742
26	Noakhali	2,634	30,042	38	926	43,143	3,712	11,716	61,269
27	Chittagong	1,542	27,235	27	922	59,026	8,484	7,226	68,718
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	111	465	4	12	7,055	3,871	996	3,628
	(2) Feudatory States	*1,870*	*19,827*	*58*	*944*	*27,369*	*2,466*	*8,098*	*32,576*
29	Cooch Behar	1,518	16,654	50	870	19,945	458	6,139	23,995
30	Hill Tippera	352	3,173	8	74	7,424	2,008	1,959	8,581

CIVIL CONDITION—*continued*.

20—40.								40—60.				Serial No.
WIDOWED.		UNMARRIED.		MARRIED.		WIDOWED.		UNMARRIED.		MARRIED.		
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
12,660	***139,190***	***1,141 132***	***79,127***	***6,181,414***	***5,560,923***	***241,585***	***1,381,333***	***74,663***	***12,239***	***3,067,987***	***1,035,341***	
12,433	***136,511***	***1,111,779***	***78,103***	***6,073,814***	***5,468,394***	***234,369***	***1,351,861***	***72,338***	***12,039***	***3,611,265***	***1,020,583***	
2,615	***39,759***	***193,972***	***13,715***	***1,142,283***	***994,872***	***46,735***	***339,583***	***19,083***	***2,637***	***574,688***	***214,999***	
471	6,929	31,236	2,620	211,178	184,118	8,735	59,802	4,698	444	111,684	40,022	1
385	3,338	11,555	1,204	126,339	115,892	5,353	29,090	1,946	288	65,049	28,345	2
349	5,167	22,695	1,569	141,057	133,136	5,180	42,924	2,619	367	71,803	31,046	3
895	14,181	76,281	5,644	359,762	333,177	16,384	125,226	5,270	854	179,315	66,354	4
325	5,854	27,851	1,370	155,674	122,470	6,478	49,050	2,724	381	79,970	25,131	5
190	4,290	24,354	1,308	148,273	106,079	4,605	33,491	1,826	303	63,867	24,101	6
2,830	***32,765***	***262,430***	***17,233***	***1,417,911***	***1,069,990***	***50,933***	***328,364***	***17,161***	***3,869***	***681,972***	***206,682***	
755	8,817	65,207	3,155	390,020	279,344	12,569	76,799	3,870	771	175,128	56,587	7
360	1,965	57,353	5,374	242,947	76,332	8,315	23,362	4,072	1,425	96,500	19,494	8
266	5,896	42,329	1,514	199,579	192,150	6,879	62,869	2,471	377	109,994	36,397	9
424	4,961	22,537	1,817	175,148	159,778	5,242	47,596	1,929	407	86,455	34,139	10
584	6,416	54,255	3,251	228,854	207,435	10,181	74,554	3,167	572	122,356	33,524	11
441	4,710	30,749	2,122	181,363	154,951	7,747	43,184	1,652	317	91,539	26,541	12
3,509	***22,391***	***259,597***	***24,196***	***1,357,204***	***1,250,183***	***68,157***	***271,868***	***16,109***	***2,416***	***673,229***	***205,322***	
697	3,833	30,152	1,207	202,947	187,807	9,855	44,840	2,812	121	93,358	28,360	13
778	3,274	45,695	9,366	226,446	205,756	15,045	40,594	1,906	642	114,472	30,442	14
345	1,605	36,176	3,568	123,469	115,416	9,356	21,511	2,567	183	64,240	20,560	15
65	138	11,451	3,322	38,082	34,517	1,910	2,887	650	275	17,896	10,561	16
592	5,293	72,881	2,511	314,271	285,262	16,274	69,296	4,760	268	166,957	40,353	17
325	1,702	16,061	1,149	134,288	124,504	4,846	20,114	747	157	61,705	20,596	18
288	3,586	32,419	1,362	188,359	178,973	6,162	41,264	1,872	164	96,585	31,377	19
419	2,980	14,762	1,711	129,342	117,948	4,709	31,362	795	606	58,016	23,073	20
2,805	***29,401***	***278,228***	***14,409***	***1,540,306***	***1,470,088***	***52,439***	***296,017***	***15,177***	***1,789***	***752,284***	***260,390***	
456	9,438	58,644	3,203	366,397	371,028	10,386	74,586	3,019	408	181,098	69,712	21
735	8,652	124,118	5,395	570,273	546,137	18,251	97,015	7,130	626	280,727	90,537	22
619	5,939	44,873	2,611	278,523	256,116	9,012	63,729	2,421	394	133,973	45,969	23
995	5,372	50,593	3,200	325,113	296,807	14,790	60,687	2,607	361	156,486	54,172	24
674	***12,195***	***117,552***	***8,550***	***616,110***	***683,261***	***16,105***	***116,029***	***4,808***	***1,328***	***329,032***	***133,190***	
322	4,934	59,898	3,569	306,034	306,223	7,502	50,530	2,030	583	150,494	53,695	25
177	2,903	19,912	1,912	141,507	162,967	3,189	26,012	949	326	77,125	31,51	26
150	4,254	33,481	2,132	148,561	194,880	4,521	38,692	1,600	314	90,469	41,727	27
25	104	4,261	937	20,008	19,191	893	795	229	105	11,004	6,249	28
227	***2,679***	***29,353***	***1,024***	***107,600***	***92,529***	***7,216***	***29,472***	***2,325***	***200***	***56,722***	***14,753***	
168	2,365	22,037	379	75,927	62,887	5,602	25,908	1,703	131	41,735	8,806	29
59	314	7,316	645	31,673	29,642	1,614	3,564	622	69	14,987	5,952	30

Chap. I. PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TABLE IV.—Age, Sex and Civil Condition—*concludea.*

Serial No.	District or State.	40 to 60.		60 and over.					
		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	BENGAL	***340,327***	***1,949,141***	***18,099***	***3,815***	***771,446***	***100,618***	***235,534***	***976,114***
	(1) British Territory	***330,094***	***1,917,507***	***17,770***	***3,760***	***758,065***	***99,270***	***229,570***	***961,624***
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	***89,787***	***455,178***	***4,012***	***991***	***132,523***	***22,705***	***57,073***	***224,949***
1	Burdwan	18,061	90,434	908	146	22,473	3,325	10,943	42,483
2	Birbhum	10,178	48,073	455	85	15,242	2,711	6,509	25,162
3	Bankura	10,750	57,967	642	92	17,408	3,293	7,288	30,687
4	Midnapore	30,0 0	146,572	1,019	433	43,005	8,497	17,712	70,872
5	Hooghly	13,154	67,074	625	138	17,673	2,352	8,728	31,088
6	Howrah	7,564	45,058	363	97	16,722	2,527	5,893	24,657
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION ...	***78,721***	***445,670***	***4,159***	***1,106***	***161,136***	***20,483***	***54,858***	***218,401***
7	24-Parganas	17,993	98,094	998	247	45,614	6,309	13,610	53,342
8	Calcutta	8,416	30,935	709	341	17,479	2,496	4,414	15,882
9	Nadia	13,417	93,167	636	118	26,005	3,111	10,106	45,239
10	Murshidabad	9,762	72,434	636	163	21,873	3,508	6,953	38,300
11	Jessore	17,715	97,517	762	134	25,734	2,548	10,907	38,917
12	Khulna	11,418	53,523	418	103	24,431	2,511	8,868	26,721
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	***72,723***	***390,999***	***3,704***	***560***	***161,153***	***21,209***	***42,912***	***185,796***
13	Rajshahi	8,856	67,111	652	35	21,474	2,356	5,455	29,918
14	Dinajpur	14,512	59,150	379	56	23,945	2,538	6,895	22,815
15	Jalpaiguri	10,475	26,177	574	69	15,396	2,210	5,310	12,441
16	Darjeeling	1,962	5,194	211	75	4,293	1,960	1,253	3,805
17	Rangpur	20,216	95,996	952	69	39,925	3,759	11,546	44,332
18	Bogra	4,708	30,660	173	98	16,218	2,042	3,384	15,509
19	Pabna	6,846	64,812	566	55	24,007	3,057	5,146	34,217
20	Malda	5,148	41,899	197	103	15,895	3,287	3,923	22,759
	DACCA DIVISION ...	***66,609***	***443,608***	***4,548***	***680***	***213,522***	***24,622***	***54,577***	***240,678***
21	Dacca	14,174	112,316	933	129	53,957	6,660	12,936	65,416
22	Mymensingh	22,176	147,824	2,018	259	77,195	8,677	16,857	80,910
23	Faridpur	12,477	90,158	824	145	38,852	4,928	11,234	50,207
24	Backergunge	17,782	93,310	773	147	43,518	4,357	13,550	44,145
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***22,254***	***182,052***	***1,347***	***423***	***89,731***	***10,251***	***20,150***	***91,800***
25	Tippera	9,611	73,908	572	175	41,156	3,948	6,644	36,626
26	Noakhali	4,905	39,067	299	117	23,136	2,555	5,460	20,618
27	Chittagong	6,657	67,240	403	87	22,660	2,934	4,945	32,523
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	1,081	1,837	73	44	2,779	814	1,101	2,033
	(2) Feudatory States	***10,233***	***31,634***	***329***	***55***	***13,381***	***1,348***	***5,964***	***14,490***
29	Cooch Behar	8,598	26,406	277	34	9,772	729	4,809	11,043
30	Hill Tippera	1,635	5,228	52	21	3,608	619	1,155	3,447

TABLE V.—EDUCATION.

Serial No.	DISTRICT OR STATE.	POPULATION.					
		TOTAL.			LITERATE.		
		Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	BENGAL	***46,305,642***	***23,803,593***	***22,502,049***	***3,575,231***	***3,323,195***	***252,036***
	(1) British Territory ...	***45,483,077***	***23,365,225***	***22,117,852***	***3,522,042***	***3,272,491***	***249,551***
	BURDWAN DIVISION ...	***8,467,314***	***4,261,925***	***4,205,389***	***863,036***	***815,329***	***47,707***
1	Burdwan	**1,538,371**	770,364	768,047	**153,552**	143,581	9,971
2	Birbhum	**935,473**	463,838	471,635	**82,308**	79,344	2,964
3	Bankura	**1,138,670**	562,585	576,085	**107,385**	103,286	4,099
4	Midnapore	**2,821,201**	1,410,714	1,410,487	**264,188**	254,746	9,442
5	Hooghly	**1,090,097**	555,823	534,274	**121,528**	110,571	10,957
6	Howrah	**943,502**	498,641	444,861	**134,075**	123,801	10,274
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION ...	***9,445,321***	***5,014,917***	***4,430,404***	***997,228***	***898,123***	***99,105***
7	24-Parganas	**2,434,104**	1,305,700	1,128,404	**300,818**	281,510	19,308
8	Calcutta	**896,067**	607,674	288,393	**287,867**	240,432	47,435
9	Nadia	**1,617,846**	812,580	805,266	**90,927**	79,895	11,032
10	Murshidabad	**1,372,274**	678,292	693,982	**79,490**	73,427	6,063
11	Jessore	**1,758,264**	901,092	857,172	**122,678**	114,437	8,241
12	Khulna	**1,366,766**	709,579	657,187	**115,448**	108,422	7,026
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	***10,138,302***	***5,256,785***	***4,881,517***	***526,968***	***503,439***	***23,529***
13	Rajshahi	**1,480,587**	755,206	725,381	**68,692**	65,013	3,679
14	Dinajpur	**1,687,863**	889,876	797,987	**99,088**	96,106	2,982
15	Jalpaiguri	**902,660**	490,228	412,432	**50,283**	48,467	1,816
16	Darjeeling	**265,550**	142,094	123,456	**26,418**	24,057	2,361
17	Rangpur	**2,385,330**	1,254,717	1,130,613	**99,548**	95,983	3,565
18	Bogra	**983,567**	502,526	481,041	**57,991**	55,788	2,203
19	Pabna	**1,428,586**	723,591	704,995	**79,044**	73,782	5,262
20	Malda	**1,004,159**	498,547	505,612	**45,904**	44,243	1,661
	DACCA DIVISION	***12,037,649***	***6,137,087***	***5,900,562***	***770,433***	***710,075***	***60,358***
21	Dacca	**2,960,402**	1,477,690	1,482,712	**221,555**	197,309	24,246
22	Mymensingh	**4,526,422**	2,339,603	2,186,819	**210,154**	198,285	11,869
23	Faridpur	**2,121,914**	1,074,959	1,046,955	**130,795**	120,091	10,704
24	Backergunge	**2,428,911**	1,244,835	1,184,076	**207,929**	194,390	13,539
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	***5,394,491***	***2,694,511***	***2,699,980***	***364,377***	***345,525***	***18,852***
25	Tippera	**2,430,138**	1,243,081	1,187,057	**172,550**	163,527	9,023
26	Noakhali	**1,302,090**	645,898	656,192	**80,210**	76,408	3,802
27	Chittagong	**1,508,433**	722,837	785,596	**101,792**	96,081	5,711
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	**153,830**	82,695	71,135	**9,825**	9,509	316
	(2) Feudatory States	***822,565***	***438,368***	***384,197***	***53,189***	***50,704***	***2,485***
29	Cooch Behar	**592,952**	316,548	276,404	**43,925**	42,266	1,659
30	Hill Tippera	**229,613**	121,820	107,793	**9,264**	8,438	826

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TABLE V.—

Serial No.	District or State.	Population.			Distribution of			
		Illiterate..			0—10.		10—15.	
		Total.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	BENGAL	***42,730,411***	***20,480,398***	***22,250,013***	***146,636***	***23,087***	***384,047***	***39,029***
	(1) British Territory ...	***41,961,035***	***20,092,734***	***21,868,301***	***144,433***	***22,773***	***379,243***	***38,658***
	BURDWAN DIVISION	***7,604,278***	***3,446,596***	***4,157,682***	***39,126***	***4,225***	***97,235***	***6,976***
1	Burdwan	1,384,819	626,743	758,076	8,600	808	20,218	1,438
2	Birbhum	853,165	364,494	468,671	4,340	331	10,638	496
3	Bankura	1,031,285	459,299	571,986	5,177	310	13,649	545
4	Midnapore	2,557,013	1,155,968	1,401,045	7,496	719	23,552	1,212
5	Hooghly	968,569	445,252	523,317	5,475	893	14,263	1,509
6	Howrah	809,427	374,840	434,587	8,038	1,164	14,915	1,776
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION ...	***8,448,093***	***4,116,794***	***4,331,299***	***42,381***	***9,054***	***98,093***	***14,324***
7	24-Parganas	2,133,286	1,024,190	1,109,096	14,132	1,686	31,111	2,723
8	Calcutta	608,200	367,242	240,958	10,330	4,974	19,301	6,636
9	Nadia	1,526,919	732,685	794,234	3,405	679	10,036	1,620
10	Murshidabad	1,292,784	604,865	687,919	3,289	572	8,925	947
11	Jessore	1,635,586	786,655	848,931	5,048	546	14,205	1,223
12	Khulna	1,251,318	601,157	650,161	6,177	697	14,515	1,175
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	***9,611,334***	***4,753,346***	***4,857,988***	***21,298***	***2,857***	***50,426***	***3,771***
13	Rajshahi	1,411,895	690,193	721,702	2,007	289	6,243	580
14	Dinajpur	1,588,775	793,770	795,005	5,047	419	9,499	415
15	Jalpaiguri	852,377	441,761	410,616	2,045	226	4,243	230
16	Darjeeling	239,132	118,037	121,095	670	314	1,980	485
17	Rangpur	2 285 782	1,158,734	1,127,048	3,369	442	8,594	508
18	Bogra	925,576	443,738	478,838	2,871	502	5,832	447
19	Pabna	1,349,542	649,809	699,733	3,262	479	8,936	807
20	Malda	958,255	454,304	503,951	2,027	186	5,099	299
	DACCA DIVISION	***11,26 ',216***	***5,427,012***	***5,840,204***	***28,348***	***4,548***	***92,980***	***10,191***
21	Dacca	2,738,847	1,280,381	1,458,466	9,874	1,852	27,846	4,015
22	Mymensingh	4,316,268	2,141,318	2,174,950	9,233	1,273	25,149	2,036
23	Faridpur	1,991,119	954,868	1,036,251	5,937	834	16,428	1,672
24	Backergunge	2 220 982	1,050,445	1,170,537	3,304	589	23,557	2,468
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	***5,030,114***	***2,348,986***	***2,681,128***	***13,280***	***2,089***	***40,509***	***3,396***
25	Tippera	2,257,588	1,079,554	1,178,034	6,510	977	20,439	1,737
26	Noakhali	1,221,880	569,490	652,390	2,660	462	8,557	755
27	Chittagong	1 406 641	626,756	779,885	3,988	629	11,084	857
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	144 005	73,186	70,819	12	21	429	47
	(2) Feudatory States ...	***769,376***	***387,664***	***381,712***	***2,203***	***314***	***4,804***	***371***
29	Cooch Behar	549,027	274,282	274,745	1,850	230	3,987	249
30	Hill Tippera	220,349	113,382	106,967	353	84	817	122

EDUCATION—*concluded.*

LITERATES BY AGE.				LITERATE IN ENGLISH.			Serial No.
15—20.		20 AND OVER.					
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	
390,796	***42,216***	***2,401,716***	***147,704***	***498,136***	***469,654***	***28,482***	
385,564	***41,863***	***2,363,251***	***146,257***	***494,499***	***466,102***	***28,397***	
103,846	***8,460***	***575,122***	***28,046***	***108,558***	***103,699***	***4,859***	
17,784	1,687	96,979	6,038	**23,356**	22,314	1.042	1
9,881	503	54,485	1,634	**7,157**	7,058	99	2
14,292	805	70,168	2,439	**7,444**	7,343	101	3
33.994	1,763	189,704	5,748	**13,621**	13,012	609	4
13,321	1,816	77,512	6,739	**21,306**	20,698	608	5
14,574	1,886	86,274	5,448	**35,674**	33,274	2,400	6
101,103	***15,759***	***656,546***	***59,968***	***219,364***	***200,853***	***18,511***	
30,776	3,242	205,491	11,657	**39,960**	38,528	1,432	7
26,470	6,852	184,331	29,073	**127,234**	111,131	16,103	8
9,158	1,856	57,296	6,877	**15,547**	15,209	338	9
9,180	944	52,033	3,600	**10,565**	10,291	274	10
12,687	1,506	82.497	4,966	**14,201**	13,978	223	11
12,832	1,359	74,898	3,795	**11,857**	11,716	141	12
51,819	***3,681***	***379,896***	***13,220***	***46,238***	***44,169***	***2,069***	
6,681	632	50,082	2,178	**6,099**	6,002	97	13
9,773	481	71,787	1,867	**4,720**	4,634	86	14
4,366	271	37,813	1,089	**3,782**	3,666	116	15
2,376	359	19,031	1,203	**5,602**	4,354	1,248	16
9,300	522	74,720	2,093	**6,800**	6,530	270	17
5,857	246	41,228	1,008	**4,621**	4,583	38	18
8,321	919	53,263	3,057	**11,821**	11,633	188	19
5,145	251	31,972	925	**2,793**	2,767	26	20
86,151	***10,883***	***502,596***	***34,736***	***88,913***	***86,859***	***2,054***	
21,883	4,218	134,706	14,161	**35,565**	34,442	1,123	21
23,152	2,023	140,751	6,537	**23.667**	23,373	294	22
14,752	2,016	82,974	6,182	**15,946**	15,645	301	23
23,364	2,626	144,165	7,856	**13,735**	13,399	336	24
42,645	***3,080***	***249,091***	***10,287***	***31,426***	***30,522***	***904***	
20,664	1,577	115,914	4,732	**13,953**	13,645	308	25
9,473	588	55,718	1,997	**5.934**	5,850	84	26
11,602	858	69,407	3,367	**11,209**	10,704	505	27
906	57	8,052	191	**330**	323	7	28
5,232	***353***	***38,465***	***1,447***	***3,637***	***3,552***	***85***	
4,295	237	32,134	943	**2,429**	2,368	61	29
937	116	6,331	504	**1,208**	1,184	42	30

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TABLE VI.—

Serial No.	District or State.	Sub-class I.—Exploitation of the surface of the earth. (Agriculture, pasture, fishing and hunting).			Sub-class II.—Extraction of minerals.		
		Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
	BENGAL	***10,701,511***	***978,912***	***24,281,647***	***40,334***	***25,164***	***50,379***
	British Territory	***10,456,912***	***941,745***	***23,826,302***	***40,334***	***25,164***	***50,379***
	BURDWAN DIVISION	***1,960,078***	***393,646***	***3,912,819***	***39,512***	***25,158***	***50,164***
1	Burdwan	336,030	61,258	686,089	38,307	24,173	48,412
2	Birbhum	238,079	47,656	468,347	23	3	188
3	Bankura	298,788	96,216	503,838	1,052	921	1,368
4	Midnapore	740,981	138,681	1,452,408	...	6	...
5	Hooghly	216,321	36,886	467,627	127	44	155
6	Howrah	129,879	12,949	334,510	3	11	41
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	***2,048,728***	***103,539***	***4,279,061***	***261***	***4***	***147***
7	24-Parganas	507,357	27,901	1,120,170	3	...	12
8	Calcutta	14,543	1,578	19,394	231	1	63
9	Nadia	391,895	17,717	741,828	6	3	50
10	Murshidabad	317,549	31,023	671,613	12	...	22
11	Jessore	462,075	18,273	935,550	9	...	...
12	Khulna	355,309	7,047	790,506	...	...	...
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	***2,698,998***	***265,172***	***5,584,858***	***543***	***2***	***32***
13	Rajshahi	392,484	22,855	799,542	...	...	...
14	Dinajpur	503,109	30,319	1,010,992	2	1	1
15	Jalpaiguri	286,540	69,493	460,381	516	1	11
16	Darjeeling	63,637	49,922	88,230	2	...	15
17	Rangpur	670,802	14,762	1,427,197	19	...	1
18	Bogra	232,464	4,846	626,599	2	...	2
19	Pabna	322,710	12,360	736,912	1	...	1
20	Malda	227,252	60,615	435,005	1	...	1
	DACCA DIVISION	***2,739,305***	***94,826***	***6,897,145***	***18***	...	***36***
21	Dacca	557,136	21,120	1,484,692	15	...	23
22	Mymensingh	1,170,425	34,263	2,685,774	1	...	...
23	Faridpur	472,207	15,808	1,265,014	...	...	...
24	Backergunge	539,537	23,635	1,461,665	2	...	13
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	***1,009,803***	***84,562***	***3,152,419***	...	...	...
25	Tippera	556,555	18,507	1,473,759	...	...	...
26	Noakhali	165,101	10,987	878,696	...	...	...
27	Chittagong	238,851	17,148	738,389	...	...	...
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	49,296	37,920	61,575	...	...	...
	Feudatory States	***244,599***	***37,167***	***455,345***	...	...	...
29	Cooch Behar	177,333	4,636	340,456	...	...	...
30	Hill Tippera	67,266	32,531	114,889	...	...	...

Occupations.

SUB-CLASS III.—INDUSTRY.			SUB-CLASS IV.—TRANSPORT.			SUB-CLASS V.—TRADE.			Serial No.
Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
1,131,202	*544,380*	*1,765,058*	*478,312*	*32,078*	*451,870*	*752,493*	*221,631*	*1,347,442*	
1,124,451	*539,786*	*1,757,405*	*469,319*	*31,910*	*450,313*	*743,144*	*217,919*	*1,338,528*	
263,891	*204,000*	*402,223*	*93,317*	*21,292*	*109,924*	*118,016*	*92,327*	*209,548*	
31,782	24,254	55,802	14,311	4,412	18,917	22,168	19,339	37,621	1
16,939	33,851	27,973	6,882	3,709	8,778	8,823	11,148	13,310	2
29,032	27,359	50,225	6,663	4,243	7,944	12,605	22,450	24,196	3
56,497	55,837	95,449	22,250	5,016	25,404	25,151	20,897	43,688	4
59,526	27,511	74,374	15,094	2,876	13,815	21,968	11,762	45,506	5
75,035	25,188	98,398	28,117	1,036	35,066	27,301	6,731	45,227	6
435,128	*134,189*	*540,726*	*165,850*	*2,618*	*130,201*	*252,219*	*56,295*	*387,455*	
174,035	51,684	165,430	39,964	767	30,912	49,349	12,647	78,296	7
104,808	7,814	75,974	78,581	539	31,189	88,102	6,530	74,654	8
51,249	23,704	105,997	19,478	536	29,922	30,235	12,334	71,510	9
43,328	35,667	78,183	8,625	618	11,804	21,105	17,923	45,438	10
41,434	11,234	76,599	12,108	141	17,648	36,289	5,449	65,684	11
20,214	4,086	38,543	7,094	17	8,728	27,139	1,412	51,873	12
141,582	*98,392*	*233,872*	*79,269*	*4,186*	*47,238*	*109,201*	*41,245*	*167,492*	
21,501	16,683	36,136	8,070	718	6,213	16,628	6,841	25,234	13
14,360	13,012	19,829	7,947	919	3,575	12,182	7,498	15,181	14
10,125	3,026	8,612	8,571	212	2,505	8,754	2,701	7,004	15
5,843	880	5,033	3,781	600	3,135	4,516	1,061	4,086	16
18,642	8,003	23,331	22,483	383	8,157	24,561	8,925	37,107	17
10,514	5,406	21,178	4,736	261	2,999	8,991	752	12,869	18
39,260	10,586	79,757	18,271	488	16,463	21,256	2,809	44,597	19
21,307	40,796	33,936	5,410	705	4,186	12,313	10,658	21,464	20
205,274	*62,114*	*419,731*	*103,287*	*3,588*	*103,511*	*196,711*	*16,782*	*419,831*	
78,208	22,894	179,817	36,296	579	53,274	65,305	5,851	176,385	21
57,956	18,080	102,615	36,976	2,729	25,534	61,063	6,917	106,505	22
34,796	8,911	73,071	18,164	268	17,255	31,767	1,921	70,827	23
34,314	12,229	64,028	11,851	12	7,448	38,576	2,093	66,114	24
73,576	*41,091*	*160,853*	*27,596*	*226*	*59,439*	*66,997*	*11,270*	*154,202*	
32,265	6,729	59,702	11,098	177	9,940	30,830	2,790	65,930	25
13,897	7,354	31,574	3,109	15	6,747	9,381	886	23,619	26
26,694	26,977	69,443	13,045	33	42,732	25,669	7,577	64,531	27
720	31	134	344	1	20	1,117	17	122	28
6,751	*4,594*	*7,663*	*8,993*	*168*	*1,557*	*9,349*	*3,712*	*8,914*	
5,242	4,116	6,678	8,449	168	1,391	7,814	2,525	7,698	29
1,509	478	985	544	.....	166	1,535	187	1,216	30

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TABLE VI.—

Serial No.	District or State.	Sub-class VI.—Public Force.			Sub-class VII.—Public Administration		
		Actual workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependants, both sexes.
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
	BENGAL	**69,323**	...	**114,416**	**43,213**	**619**	**89,965**
	British Territory	**68,477**	...	**113,257**	**41,882**	**617**	**88,311**
	BURDWAN DIVISION	**14,499**	...	**26,765**	**6,809**	**222**	**14,705**
1	Burdwan	2,793	...	5,376	1,103	...	1,619
2	Birbhum	2,161	...	4,486	370	...	839
3	Bankura	1,872	...	3,482	477	...	1,223
4	Midnapore	3,419	...	6,059	1,541	1	3,824
5	Hooghly	2,467	...	3,649	1,623	93	4,425
6	Howrah	1,787	...	3,713	1,695	128	2,775
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	**22,695**	...	**26,592**	**20,407**	**359**	**35,333**
7	24-Parganas	4,703	...	5,573	3,783	175	7,952
8	Calcutta	8,568	...	1,860	12,926	176	18,183
9	Nadia	3,320	...	7,421	1,142	...	3,062
10	Murshidabad	2,817	...	5,413	838	7	2,446
11	Jessore	1,891	...	3,697	1,180	1	2,572
12	Khulna	1,396	...	2,628	538	...	1,118
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	**14,301**	...	**23,008**	**3,880**	**35**	**7,898**
13	Rajshahi	1,953	...	3,407	590	1	1,428
14	Dinajpur	1,943	...	3,537	536	6	1,044
15	Jalpaiguri	1,667	...	1,339	357	...	596
16	Darjeeling	1,607	...	1,043	381	13	434
17	Rangpur	2,125	...	4,008	649	...	1,036
18	Bogra	1,323	...	2,379	388	15	955
19	Pabna	1,922	...	3,627	608	...	1,580
20	Malda	1,761	...	3,668	371	...	825
	DACCA DIVISION	**11,611**	...	**23,682**	**6,245**	**1**	**19,208**
21	Dacca	3,981	...	7,844	2,166	1	9,911
22	Mymensingh	3,613	...	6,759	1,687	...	3,579
23	Faridpur	1,797	...	3,917	1,086	...	2,738
24	Backergunge	2,320	...	5,162	1,306	...	2,980
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	**5,371**	...	**13,210**	**4,541**	...	**11,167**
25	Tippera	1,578	...	3,675	1,311	...	3,270
26	Noakhali	1,148	...	3,050	938	...	2,717
27	Chittagong	2,478	...	6,385	2,175	...	5,048
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	172	...	100	117	...	132
	Feudatory States	**846**	...	**1,159**	**1,331**	**2**	**1,654**
29	Cooch Behar	771	...	1,091	479	2	935
30	Hill Tippera	75	...	68	852	...	719

OCCUPATIONS—*continued.*

SUB-CLASS VIII.—PROFESSIONS AND LIBERAL ARTS.			SUB-CLASS IX.—PERSONS LIVING ON THEIR INCOME.			SUB-CLASS X.—DOMESTIC SERVICE			Serial No.
ACTUAL WORKERS.		Dependants, both sexes.	ACTUAL WORKERS.		Dependants, both sexes.	ACTUAL WORKERS.		Dependants, both sexes.	
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
258,438	***36,124***	***517,377***	***10,964***	***5,623***	***35,518***	***254,386***	***111,590***	***160,914***	
254,682	***36,002***	***512,489***	***10,865***	***5,529***	***35,031***	***249,691***	***110,915***	***159,245***	
66,262	***17,023***	***109,424***	***3,401***	***1,334***	***8,557***	***63,595***	***42,859***	***40,159***	
11,026	3,695	17,672	744	248	1,947	16,026	8,415	13,055	1
4,596	3,026	5,314	72	17	150	10,701	5,073	5,165	2
6,844	1,783	11,879	144	23	495	5,811	5,928	4,165	3
24,160	5,774	31,834	751	300	1,454	15,216	12,649	6,041	4
10,954	1,763	22,919	822	289	2,162	7,791	7,127	6,274	5
8,682	982	19,806	838	457	2,329	8,048	3,667	4,559	6
61,484	***9,550***	***123,194***	***6,158***	***3,750***	***21,629***	***113,976***	***48,565***	***68,769***	
13,214	1,263	29,560	1,242	999	4,637	18,615	6,045	9,109	7
18,800	2,735	30,405	3,865	2,229	12,978	58,553	21,011	30,530	8
8,923	1,467	21,546	490	117	2,014	10,309	8,699	9,763	9
5,593	1,854	10,659	319	334	1,126	12,599	8,904	10,867	10
7,705	1,576	16,166	168	53	615	9,093	2,887	5,392	11
7,249	655	14,858	74	18	259	4,802	1,019	3,108	12
28,928	***5,076***	***48,901***	***429***	***140***	***966***	***29,776***	***9,425***	***13,915***	
4,857	1,037	8,455	62	61	178	3,844	2,374	2,407	13
2,952	585	3,441	19	14	49	2,990	935	1,038	14
2 467	263	2,409	20	3	71	3,568	449	946	15
1,090	324	1,955	138	16	165	3,949	476	3,312	16
5,947	778	8,921	55	4	128	5,950	1,297	1,407	17
2,851	304	4,941	42	6	74	2.356	747	854	18
6,109	503	13,894	59	15	218	4,439	2,427	2,410	19
2,655	1,222	4,885	34	21	83	2,660	720	1,541	20
61,715	***2,966***	***145,277***	***640***	***289***	***3,355***	***31,889***	***8,400***	***27,719***	
20,413	928	54,851	427	182	2,659	13,116	3,284	15,790	21
15,518	652	28,933	72	69	208	9,367	3,411	5,613	22
10.837	949	27,651	86	19	324	4,554	1,076	3,232	23
14,947	437	33.842	55	19	164	4,852	629	3,084	24
36,293	***1,387***	***85,693***	***237***	***16***	***524***	***10,455***	***1,666***	***8,683***	
14,073	665	28,657	62	10	142	3,460	686	2,247	25
6,583	223	14,631	17	...	29	2,237	286	1,219	26
15,389	497	42,248	144	5	344	4,506	617	5,159	27
248	2	157	14	1	9	252	77	58	28
3,756	***122***	***4,888***	***99***	***94***	***487***	***4,695***	***675***	***1,669***	
2,784	93	3,463	81	42	313	3,942	373	899	29
972	29	1,425	18	52	174	753	302	770	30

Chap. I. PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TABLE VI.—Occupations—*concluded.*

Serial No.	District or State.	Sub-class XI.—Insufficiently-described occupations.			Sub-class XII.—Unproductive.		
		Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.	Actual Workers.		Dependants, both sexes.
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
	BENGAL	**524,951**	**43,376**	**780,603**	**123,347**	**167,508**	**154,964**
	British Territory	**523,207**	**43,349**	**779,628**	**119,911**	**164,394**	**151,984**
	BURDWAN DIVISION	**45,502**	**4,518**	**55,433**	**13,663**	**17,645**	**14,024**
1	Burdwan	5,375	1,042	7,482	2,627	2,462	2,789
2	Birbhum	995	484	1,568	1,737	1,349	1,658
3	Bankura	1,087	776	1,511	1,392	1,486	1,348
4	Midnapore	4,039	795	5,193	4,796	5,662	4,524
5	Hooghly	6,762	639	10,259	1,735	2,912	1,820
6	Howrah	27,244	788	29,417	1,376	3,774	1,885
	PRESIDENCY DIVISION	**128,105**	**6,327**	**115,776**	**26,158**	**42,014**	**28,059**
7	24-Parganas	22,456	1,663	26,933	4,808	7,217	5,370
8	Calcutta	86,626	3,208	53,830	6,674	15,356	3,553
9	Nadia	6,731	317	16,161	4,578	7,342	7,980
10	Murshidabad	5,143	684	6,916	4,090	5,083	3,672
11	Jessore	3,624	383	5,573	4 010	4,414	4,768
12	Khulna	3,525	72	6,363	1,998	2,602	2,516
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	**141,099**	**23,194**	**195,035**	**38,085**	**39,674**	**42,455**
13	Rajshahi	29,144	2,682	44,579	6,075	8,157	6,331
14	Dinajpur	6,209	1,538	5,716	6,090	4,917	5,427
15	Jalpaiguri	7,403	512	5,748	2,612	1,670	2,108
16	Darjeeling	8,626	4,159	6,366	366	217	172
17	Rangpur	27,107	1,025	21,194	12,839	10,911	15,646
18	Bogra	8,026	369	12,912	3,603	4,328	5 445
19	Pabna	23,852	641	44,743	4,150	6,905	5,008
20	Malda	30,732	12,268	53,777	2,350	2,569	2,318
	DACCA DIVISION	**117,382**	**5,893**	**211,088**	**26,088**	**39,053**	**32,989**
21	Dacca	37,753	1,217	76.981	7,088	12,100	8,215
22	Mymensingh	33,986	2,975	58,769	11,356	15.321	16,096
23	Faridpur	15,815	624	24,651	3,131	5,955	3,463
24	Backergunge	29,828	1,077	51,287	4,513	5,677	5,215
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	**91,119**	**3,417**	**202,296**	**15,917**	**26,008**	**34,457**
25	Tippera	29,911	721	46,674	6,457	7,960	10,297
26	Noakhali	25,541	374	70,160	4,255	5,469	11,852
27	Chittagong	35,148	2,222	85,199	5,045	12,490	12,245
28	Chittagong Hill Tracts	519	100	263	160	89	63
	Feudatory States	**1,744**	**27**	**975**	**3,436**	**3,114**	**2,980**
29	Cooch Behar	1,095	27	720	2,975	2,656	2,705
30	Hill Tippera	649	.....	255	461	458	275

Changes in the Administration.

Lieutenant-Governors.

252. During the year there was a change in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. His Honour Sir Edward Baker, K.C.S.I., went on leave for four months on the 14th July, and the Hon'ble Mr. F. W. Duke, C.S.I. (now Sir William Duke), acted as Lieutenant-Governor in his place. Sir Edward Baker resigned on the 21st September, and the Hon'ble Mr. Duke held the office of Lieutenant-Governor during the rest of the year.

His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, on the expiration of his term of office on the 22nd of August, was succeeded by His Honour Sir Charles Bayley, who was Lieutenant-Governor during the rest of the year.

Executive Council.

253. The Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, C.S.I., was appointed a temporary Member of the Executive Council in place of the Hon'ble Mr. Duke.

Board of Revenue.

254. Consequent on the creation of an Executive Council for the province of Bengal in 1910, the Board was placed temporarily in charge of one Member, and its ultimate abolition was contemplated. It has since been decided by the Secretary of State to retain permanently a Board of one Member with one Secretary. Revenue work has accordingly been distributed between the Secretariat and the Board, so as to reduce the work of the Board to an amount with which a single Member can cope.

Reconstitution of Bengal and appointment of a Governor-in-Council.

255. With effect from the 1st April 1912, Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa were placed under a Lieutenant-Governor in Council, a Chief Commissioner was appointed for Assam, and the territories consisting of the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions of Eastern Bengal and Assam and the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions (along with the district of Darjeeling) of Bengal were constituted into the Presidency of Bengal under a Governor-in-Council. The Right Hon'ble Baron Carmichael of Skirling, G.C.I.E., K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor, and the following three gentlemen were appointed Members of the Executive Council :—

The Hon'ble Sir Frederick William Duke, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. Percy Comyn Lyon, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Maulvi Saiyid Shams-ul-Huda, M.A., B.L., Vakil, High Court.

Other changes.

256. The 8th grade of Deputy Magistrates and Collectors in Bengal on Rs. 200 was abolished, and the appointments contained therein were amalgamated with the 7th grade on Rs. 250. Two District and Sessions Judgeships were added to the cadre of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and one of the two appointments was listed as open to the Provincial Civil Service.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for 1911-1912.]

[*Area, 1,307 square miles : chief products—rice, jute, tobacco : population, 593,052 : military force, 194 men and 4 guns. Annual revenue, Rs. 27,40,068. Ruling Chief, Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur. Family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin. Residence, Cooch Behar.*]

Ruling Chief.

257. His Highness Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, G.C.I.E., C.B., died in England on the 18th September 1911, and was succeeded by his eldest son, His Highness Raj Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur who was installed at the Head-quarters of the State by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 8th November 1911.

The Council.

258. On the executive side the State Council held 47 meetings against 41 of the previous year, at 13 of which His Highness presided, while on the judicial side 35 meetings were held against 36 of the previous year, in

disposing of 41 appeals and motions, both civil and criminal. No meeting of the Legislative Council was held during the year.

State Railway. 259. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway were Rs. 2,70,980, showing an increase of Rs. 53,592, and the working expenses Rs. 1,49,721. The net earnings were therefore 5·95 per cent. on the capital outlay, against 5·3 of the previous year.

Financial. 260. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 27,40,068 against Rs. 26,94,231 of the previous year, showing a net increase of Rs. 45,837. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 26,68,774 against Rs. 29,15,996 of the previous year, resulting in a surplus of Rs. 71,294 against a deficit of Rs. 2,21,765 of the previous year. The closing balance was Rs. 13,90,685 inclusive of Government money and deposits amounting to Rs. 4,47,733, resulting in a decrease of Rs. 76,244.

Crops and condition of the people. 261. The yield of winter rice varied from 14 to 16 annas as in the previous year, and as a result of the good harvest the price of common rice went down still further, the rates varying from Rs. 2-4 to Rs. 4, against Rs. 2-12 and Rs. 4-12 of the previous year. The shortness in the outturn of jute was more than made up by the rise in price which varied from Rs. 7 to Rs. 11 a maund. The tobacco crop suffered badly, but the prices obtained for it improved later on in the year. The general condition of the people was prosperous. There was no want of food-grains, and good prices were obtained for all the principal crops. There is a growing tendency among the inhabitants of the State to invest their savings more in land than in business.

Cultivation of tobacco. 262. The area under tobacco in the two experimental farms decreased considerably during the year owing to the bad weather conditions. The varieties grown were Virginian, Turkish and Cuban. Expert opinion pronounced the quality of the tobacco grown on the State farms to be almost as good as tobacco grown in America. The highest price obtained was Rs. 60 per maund and the lowest price Rs. 25, while the average price per maund of country tobacco was only Rs. 12. As the objects with which the farms were started are considered to have been practically attained, one of the farms has been abolished.

Criminal Justice. 263. The total number of criminal cases reported during the year was 3,343 against 3,480 in the preceding year, the decrease being chiefly under class V (minor offences against property). The percentage of convictions to the total number of cognizable and non-cognizable cases tried fell from 73·17 and 72·6 to 72·37 and 69·31, respectively. The admissions to the jail were 246 against 293 in the previous year. The health of the prisoners was good.

Education. 264. The chief aim of the Education Department during the year was to strengthen and systematize the already existing institutions. The three subdivisional higher English schools continued to make satisfactory progress. The total number of pupils rose from 624 to 639, and the average attendance improved from 437 to 490. An increasing number of boys sought admission into the boarding institutions attached to various schools. The curriculum of middle English schools was improved. The number of primary schools increased from 287 to 301, while the number of pupils rose from 9,728 to 10,762. The number of Muhammadan boys attending the various schools rose to 4,804, and their success in the various scholarship examinations was encouraging. Additional grants were given to further the cause of Muhammadan education. Female education made slow progress. The number of girls' schools rose from 19 to 21 and the pupils attending them from 352 to 385. The total expenditure incurred by the State for primary and secondary education was Rs. 39,478-11 against Rs. 39,136-1-8 in the preceding year. The average daily attendance at the Victoria College was 156·9 against 129·71 in 1910-11, and the results of the various University examinations were satisfactory.

Public health. 265. The year was a comparatively healthy one. There was a remarkable decrease in cholera. Measures for the prevention of cholera were continued, and a grant of Rs. 10,000 was mainly devoted to sinking and improving wells. The measures introduced for segregating the cases of *kala-azar* in the Kristapur Taluk were also continued. Captain Mackie, I.M.S., who was on special duty for the investigation of *kala-azar*, spent a week in Cooch Behar

and expressed a high appreciation of the work that had already been done. Some tentative work was done in the distribution of quinine. An important measure of town improvement is being carried out in Cooch Behar. The town has been divided into areas which are being surveyed with a view to being levelled and drained, as funds are available. These measures should exercise an important influence on the health conditions of the town, and more especially on the prevalence of malaria.

Miscellaneous.

266. Ten State excise shops were abolished and six shops removed during the year.

The total expenditure on Public Works was Rs. 90,880, of which Rs 36,547 was for original works, mostly for additions to the Council building.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of the Tippera State for 1911-1912.]

[Area, 4,086 square miles; population (1911), 229,613; revenue from State, Rs. 8,88,187; revenue from zamindari in British territory, Rs 8,91,322; military force, 223 men; chief products, rice and cotton. Present Raja, Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya, aged 29 years; family, Indo-Chinese; caste, Kshatriya; has male heir; residence, Agartala.]

General.

267. The Raja made extensive tours in the interior during the year, visiting four Divisions of the State. There were four meetings of the *Amatya Sava* during the year. A committee consisting of the leading officials and one non-official member was appointed to examine the finances of the State and suggest retrenchments. The committee held several sittings during the year. The State lost the services of an earnest worker by the death of the Geologist, Mr. Asoke Bose.

Revenue and Finance.

268. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 10,40,219, which is higher than the past quinquennial average, though less than last year's income. Land revenue collections show a steady increase. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaris amounted to Rs. 20,03,843. With recoveries, refunds and deposits, the total amount came up to Rs. 25,28,575. The total expenditure was Rs. 21,02,070. It included Rs. 59,000 under the head "Delhi Durbar." The closing balance was thus Rs. 4,26,505 against Rs. 4,70,290 of the previous year.

Protection.

269. An Arms Act and an Act amending the State Penal Code were passed during the year. The total number of offences reported to the police was 695 against 636. The number of persons arrested was 438, of whom 387 were sent up for trial and 195 convicted. The percentage of recovery of stolen property shows much improvement. The number of original criminal cases instituted was greater by 10. There was a decrease of 47 in respect of offences against the person and an increase of 37 cases under the head "Offences against property."

Weather and Crops.

270. The outturn of paddy in the plains was fairly satisfactory on the whole, though *aus* crops were damaged in places by unseasonable rainfall. *Jhum* paddy, however, suffered seriously, as did most of the *jhum* crops, mainly in consequence of the damage caused by rats. Neither jute nor mustard throve well. Rinderpest prevailed in many places. The area of the State silk farm was extended and experiments continued. A model school was established to give practical training in agriculture and sericulture.

Condition of the people.

271. One of the main factors affecting the condition of the people was the "flowering" and almost wholesale destruction of the bamboo, which is one of the principal commodities of trade in the State. With this phenomenon is associated the rat pest referred to. Owing to the poor outturn of *jhum* crops, hillmen fared badly, while towards the close of the year, acute distress prevailed among sections of the people in most of the divisions, necessitating relief measures from the State. The people inhabiting the plains were tolerably well off. On the whole, public health was satisfactory throughout the year.

Political Agent.

272. The continuance of the post of Political Agent for a further period of two years was sanctioned by the Government of India.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, of Bengal 1911-1912.]

The agricultural classes.

273. The material condition of the people was on the whole satisfactory. In the greater portion of the Presidency the outturn of the main crops was good, and the high prices which ruled throughout the year compensated the cultivating classes for the poorer outturn in certain areas. The year has therefore been a prosperous one for the cultivating classes.

Floods and distress.

274. High floods in June 1911 caused some distress in the district of Birbhum, and the crops in parts of Tippera and Noakhali were damaged by floods, but timely relief enabled the tenants to tide over the calamity. The annually recurring floods in the rivers Damodar and Dwarkeswar are reported to be causing serious deterioration of agricultural land in the Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly. No effective means of controlling these floods has as yet been devised. The year was a bad one for the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Early rain and unsuccessful burning of *jhums* prejudicially affected the whole *jhum* paddy crop. Then, when the crop ripened, swarms of rats made their appearance and caused considerable damage to the crop. To relieve the distress a sum of Rs. 1,23,900 was sanctioned for agricultural loans. In the rest of the Presidency conditions were satisfactory.

Wages and salaries.

275. The labouring classes had nothing to complain of. The demand for labour, both skilled and unskilled, was good and high wages were obtainable all over the Presidency. The rise in the wages of the labouring classes has of late been marked, and has more than made up to them for the rise in the price of food-grains. The high prices of food and labour press heavily, however, on those members of the middle classes who depend on small fixed incomes. Government has recently increased the salaries of its clerical establishments, but otherwise there is at present no marked tendency, as in the case of skilled and unskilled labour, towards a general rise in the salaries obtainable by the educated classes. The supply tends to exceed the demand and increased competition keeps the salaries down.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1911-1912.]

Total collections.

276. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 96,431 as against 96,209 in the previous year, and of these 91,296 were in class I (permanently-settled estates), 2,936 in class II (temporarily-settled estates) and 2,199 in class III (estates managed direct by Government). The increase of 222 estates was mainly due to partitions of estates in class I. The current demands rose to Rs. 2,69,51,192 from Rs. 2,67,48,291 in the previous year, and the increase (Rs. 2,02,901) was mostly the result, as usual, of new settlements, re-settlements and progressive increase of demands in respect of the estates in classes II and III. The total collections (Rs. 2,68,66,572) represent 96·24 per cent. of the total and 99·68 per cent. of the current demands as against 96·34 and 99·91 respectively in the previous year. As in other years the bulk of the remissions (Rs. 50,821) was allowed in estates held direct by Government.

Collections in—

(a) Permanently-settled estates.

277. In the permanently-settled estates the current collections exceeded 99 per cent. of the demands in all districts, except Midnapore (97·97) and Backergunge (96·24). In both these districts the deficiency was due to short payments made by the estate of Raja Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore, which is under the management of the Court of Wards, on account of its bad financial position.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

278. The temporarily-settled estates comprise three sub-classes, viz.—(1) private estates settled with the proprietors, (2) private estates leased to farmers and (3) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections from all these classes came to Rs. 14,71,122, being 90·03 per cent. of the total and 100·44 per cent. of the current demands. The current collections failed to reach the prescribed standard in Backergunge only.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

279. The estates held direct by Government include two classes, viz.—(1) those belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, and (2) those owned by Government as proprietor. The total collections showed a small deterioration, being 83·17 per cent. of the total and 97·72 per cent. of the current demands, as against percentages of 84·51 and 99·03 respectively in the previous year. On the other hand, the demand increased by Rs. 1,32,914 during the year. In twelve districts the collections were below the prescribed standards. The balances are heaviest in Chittagong and Midnapore. It is explained that the deficit in Chittagong is mainly due to the pendency of civil suits in respect of lands forming part of Government estates in regard to which the cadastral survey records are defective, to the existence of tenancies in which there are no *kists* for the payment of rent so that no coercive measures could be taken before the end of the Bengali year, and to the number of scattered petty holdings from which it is difficult to make prompt collections. In Midnapore a number of the tenants have filed suits disputing the status or rent, or both, assigned to them at the recent settlement proceedings, and are withholding their rents or paying them only at the old rates pending the disposal of the suits.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

280. The total collections aggregated Rs. 3,30,248 as against Rs. 3,82,304 in the previous year. The remissions are noticeably small, amounting to only Rs. 269 against Rs. 10,852 in the previous year. The largest receipts were Rs. 57,325 on account of *vulbandi* contribution realized from the Burdwan Raj, Rs. 22,228 chiefly representing the value of trees on khas lands and survey fees paid in respect of land taken up for tea cultivation in Jalpaiguri, Rs. 25,061 realized from protected forest areas in the Sundarbans of Backergunge, and Rs. 21,348 on account of partition fees in Tippera.

Redemption of land revenue.

281. The number of petty estates of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year was 297. They were mostly permanently-settled

holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The total revenue of these estates amounted to Rs. 584, and the aggregate price realized on redemption was Rs. 17,305. There were no redemptions under section 11 of the old Partition Act, VIII (B. C.) of 1876.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money-orders.

282. During the year the number of special money-orders and the amount of land revenue and cesses remitted thereby were 303,326 and Rs. 17,40,026 as against 296,104 and Rs. 17,14,896 respectively in the previous year. The aggregate of the remittances exceeded a lakh of rupees in each of the districts of Midnapore, Jessore, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chittagong. The average value of an order was Rs. 5·7. The land revenue and road-cess tauzis are now amalgamated in practically the whole of the Presidency, and a proposal to issue a combined money-order form for land revenue and cesses is under consideration.

The system of payment of rent by money-order continued to be in force throughout the Presidency, except in the districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. As compared with the preceding year, the total number of rent-money-orders issued showed a decrease of 6,494, but the aggregate amount remitted rose from Rs. 9,55,789 to Rs. 9,98,833. In the districts of Rajshahi and Chittagong the number fell from 4,249 and 18,024 to 1,786 and 13,452 respectively. The Commissioner of the Chittagong Division says that the decrease in the number of remittances points to more amicable relations between landlord and tenant, as, where no friction exists, direct payment is the invariable custom. The percentage of money-orders refused to money-orders issued increased to 21·8 from 18·9 in 1910-1911. The percentage was highest (45·8) in Mymensingh and lowest (2·1) in Jalpaiguri. The increase in the percentage of refusals is generally due to the fact that the tenants' accounts do not tally with those of the landlords. There was a large increase in the percentage of refusals in Murshidabad, Rajshahi and Mymensingh. The Collector of Murshidabad reports that some of the refusers are very prominent landlords of the district.

Coercive measures—

(a) Sale laws.

283. The number of defaults and the number of sales during the year were respectively 10,546 and 878 against 10,054 and 945 during the preceding year. The number of sales shows a decrease, while the proportion borne by the price received to the Government revenue of the properties sold has been raised. These properties realized 5·1 times the revenue on them as against 4·1 times the revenue in 1910-1911. Twenty-eight tenures and holdings under the direct management of Government in the district of Backergunge were sold under the provisions of Act XI of 1859. Of these, eight were purchased on behalf of Government for one rupee each. Fifteen appeals were preferred to the Commissioner against the sale of tenures during the year under report, of which 14 refer to the sales held last year. In four cases the sales were annulled. The other appeals were unsuccessful. The provisions of the Sale law were applied with due moderation throughout the province.

(b) Certificate procedure.

284. During the year the total number of certificates filed (exclusive of those for cesses, which have been separately noticed in the section on cesses) was 43,556 as against 39,685 in the previous year. The percentage of certificates disposed of to the total number for disposal fell from 73·4 to 68·4, but there was a decrease in the number of cases pending for more than six months. The number of long pending cases is still, however, unduly high in certain districts, such as Howrah, where out of 468 pending cases 383 have been pending for over six months, but this is a substantial reduction on the number (808) at the close of the preceding year. In the majority of cases it was necessary to attach property, but actual sale had to be resorted to in a small percentage only.

(c) Imprisonment.

285. Of the 24 persons committed to civil jails during the year in the enforcement of certificates, 19 were imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands and 5 for non-payment of Court of Wards and District Board dues.

Processes.

286. The total number of processes served during the year was 906,767, of which 482,456 were paid processes and 424,311 unpaid. The total process-fees realized amounted to Rs. 3,53,365, and the total cost of the process serving establishment debitable to land revenue was Rs. 2,15,111. In only

one district (Dinajpur) did the cost of the process-serving establishment exceed the receipts from fees. The system of serving revenue processes by daffadars through the presidents of village panchayats was in use in the districts of Dacca, Tippera and Hooghly throughout the year. In Dacca all revenue processes, except processes involving the realization of money, warrants of arrest and sale proclamations, were served by this agency. The Commissioner states that there has been much improvement in the working of the system. In Tippera, out of 17,201 revenue processes, 6,338 were served through presidents of panchayats, and the system is said to have worked well throughout the year.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land registration.

287. The applications for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land, by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise, numbered 46,098, of which 35,552, or 3·86 per cent. on the total number of interests registered, were granted before the close of the year. The numbers of old interests removed and of new interests recorded were 32,951 and 43,680, respectively. The resulting total number of interests at the close of the year was 930,329 as against 919,600 at the beginning. Of this total, 384,573 are included in the one district of Chittagong. The expenditure on land registration work amounted to Rs. 31,561, and the fees and fines realized to Rs. 17,338. No case of fraudulent registration was detected. In most of the districts the registers are reported to be in good condition.

Partitions.

288. The number of cases pending at the close of 1910-1911 was 163 and the number instituted during the year was 64, making a total of 227 for disposal. The number of cases actually disposed of was 56 as compared with 52 in the preceding year. In 45 cases partitions were allowed. The remaining 11 cases were for various reasons struck off. At the close of the year 171 cases were left undisposed of, of which 64 have been pending for over two years. Except in Khulna, there was no whole-time partition officer. In Murshidabad, 24-Parganas. Jessore and Dinajpur a part of the pay of the partition officer was realized from the estates under partition. There are partition funds in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Jessore. Proposals for the amendment of the Partition Act with a view to shorten and improve the procedure were under consideration during the year both in East and in West Bengal. The territorial redistribution necessitated the temporary shelving of the question; but it has again been taken up, and definite proposals for legislation will probably soon be formulated, although it may be desirable to await the action to be taken in the province of Bihar and Orissa, where the matter is of more pressing importance.

Land acquisition.

289. Proceedings for the acquisition, on behalf of Government or local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 4,021 acres were confirmed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 1,34,62,898 as compared with an area of 4,127 acres at a cost of Rs. 53,73,002 during the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred, Rs. 11,82,164 was for acquisition of lands for Government, including State Railways, and Rs. 1,22,80,734 for all other purposes, viz., for the needs of the Port Commissioners of Calcutta, (Rs. 1,06,44,130) District Boards, Municipalities and Railway and other companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 3,348 against Rs. 1,302 in the preceding year. This marked increase in the average cost is chiefly due to the fact that the proceedings for the acquisition of the large area of 1,851 acres for the Calcutta Port Commissioners at a total cost of Rs. 1,06,44,130 were confirmed during the year.

Loans—

(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

290. The amount of loans under this Act outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 3,56,190, and loans amounting to Rs. 25,160 were advanced during the year. Of the total outstanding principal of Rs. 3,81,350, Rs. 1,29,477 was repayable during the year. Out of this Rs. 91,114 was realized during the year, including a sum of Rs. 1,248 collected in advance.

(b) Agriculturalists' Loans Act.

291. The amount advanced during the year under the Act was Rs. 53,516. The outstanding balance of the previous year was Rs. 7,74,712, making the aggregate outstanding Rs. 8,28,228, of which Rs. 6,85,573 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 4,67,885,

of which Rs. 11,588 were advance and Rs. 190 excess payments. Rupees 1,325 was remitted. The balance recoverable in future years is Rs. 3,59,208, including Rs. 1,078 under suspension, of which Rs. 2,27,063 was overdue at the end of the year. The amounts overdue in Nadia and Dinajpur are heavy. The collections in other districts as well are unsatisfactory.

Surveys.

[Reports of the Survey Department, Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1911.]

Outturn for the year.

292. Traverse survey was carried on in the districts of Midnapore, Mymensingh, Dacca and Rajshahi, and covered an area of 3,217 square miles. Good progress was made in the revision survey of Calcutta and in allied items of work. The Bengal Drawing Office was inspected by the Surveyor-General of India, who expressed his satisfaction with the work done.

Administrative and other changes.

293. The superior staff of the Survey Department was finally fixed during the year. The work of the Director of Surveys, Eastern Bengal and Assam, increased so largely that it was found necessary to provide him with a Personal Assistant. The Director's proposal gradually to make a complete analysis of the maps of the province received attention, but it is a work that will take long to accomplish, and Captain Hirst was authorised to publish in the meantime a treatise dealing with the various kinds of maps in existence relating to Eastern Bengal. The important question of survey education was considered, and it was decided to confine the Engineering schools to their legitimate work of Engineering surveying, the training of land surveyors being placed under the Director of Surveys.

Complaints having been received in the previous season against the conduct of the line-clearing squads, the experiment was made in West Bengal of placing them directly under the traversers concerned, instead of starting them off independently a long time ahead. The experiment was successful in that it saved a large number of complaints and tended to expedite work.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual reports of the Directors of Land Records, Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the year ending the 30th September 1911.]

General.

294. The operations of the Settlement Department were devoted to the settlement of rents payable by tenants and of land revenue in Government or temporarily-settled tracts, and the preparation of a record-of-rights with the settlement of fair rents on the application of landlords or tenants in permanently-settled tracts. Settlement work was going on in fourteen districts, and the area cadastrally surveyed during the year was 1,960 square miles. The total area for which a record-of-rights has been completed in Bengal as it now stands is 10,292 square miles.

Administrative and other changes.

295. Powers were delegated to the Local Government to sanction within certain limits the creation of settlement appointments. The certification fee on copies of entries in the record-of-rights of a village or a portion of a village framed under the Tenancy Act was reduced from eight annas for every 360 words or fraction thereof to a fixed sum of eight annas. Similarly, the court-fee chargeable on plaints under section 106 of the Act was reduced to an *ad valorem* fee under article I of Schedule I of the Court-fees Act in cases where the amount of such fee would be less than ten rupees.

Land Revenue settlements.

296. The difficult work of the settlement of land revenue in the Majnamutha and Jalamutha estates in the district of Midnapore was completed. In Faridpur there was a heavy programme of similarly difficult and intricate work, which by the end of the year was within view of completion. In the Western Duars of the Jalpaiguri district the reassessment of revenue was in progress in the Mainaguri tahsil, and proposals for reassessment in respect of some of the backward tahsils were submitted to the Board of Revenue.

297. Operations not primarily undertaken with a view to the settlement of revenue were in progress on a large scale in the districts of Faridpur, Dacca, Mymensingh and Jalpaiguri, and in the Rampur Hât subdivision of the district of Birbhum. Owing mainly to the difficulty of finding a Settlement Officer, the commencement of a cadastral survey and record-of-rights in the district of Rajshahi was postponed until the field season of 1912-1913 but the intervening period was utilised in making necessary preparations. **Other settlements.**

298. In Faridpur the work of the year lay chiefly in disposing of the vast mass of objections under section 103A of the Tenancy Act and in preparing the record for final publication. Of the objections, which continued to be received without intermission throughout the year, only 2,538 out of 26,910 were pending at its close. Most of these were of special difficulty, requiring the decision of the Settlement Officer. The printing of the record for final publication was unfortunately greatly delayed owing to the late arrival of presses from England. **Faridpur.**

299. This was the first season's work in Dacca. The programme was successfully accomplished. Plots were found to be very small and the tenancies very numerous. A disquieting fact disclosed by the settlement operations was that the system of *barga* tenancies or tenancies held at a produce rent, usually amounting to half the gross produce, was on the increase. **Dacca.**

300. In Mymensingh the programme was practically completed. Much time was lost owing to the attitude of the tenants of the Alapsingh pargana, who repeatedly boycotted the settlement camps. There have been illegal enhancements of rent in almost all the villages in the pargana, while an injurious system for enhancing rents, which is locally known as *anugraha komi*, is universal. Under this system leading tenants are induced, in consideration of not having to pay the full enhancement themselves, nominally to agree to an enhancement of rent which the smaller men are deceived into accepting. **Mymensingh.**

Amongst the 8,000 objections under section 13-A which were decided during the year, there were cases in which important questions relating to the status of raiyats and under-raiyats in the Patildaha pargana belonging to the Tagore estate were discussed and satisfactorily settled.

301. In Jalpaiguri the programme consisted of 522 square miles of cadastral survey and initial record-writing, and 360 square miles of attestation. The latter was accomplished without difficulty. The cadastral survey operations were hampered by the dearth of amins. **Jalpaiguri.**

302. The facts brought to light by the settlement proceedings in the Rampur Hât subdivision of Birbhum have fully justified the extension of the survey and record-of-rights to that area, and it has been found necessary to empower the Settlement Officer to adjust rents under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in a portion of the tract. **Rampur Hat.**

303. Attestation and draft publication of the records of the Mokimpur Wards estate in Jessore were completed. An interesting feature of this area is that under-raiyats have largely been found to possess occupancy rights and the right to transfer. Several additions were made to the Hooghly programme, and the operations now extend to nearly 50 square miles scattered all over the district. A special Settlement Officer was employed on the assessment of diara estates in the district of Backergunge on the basis of the record-of-rights. Though much of his time was spent in the preliminary enquiries essential in this contentious work, the assessment of three diara estates was completed during the year. In Noakhali there was a large programme dealing with a scattered area. Altogether 179 square miles were under survey and settlement. The programme for the season was unfortunately too heavy for the staff employed. **Minor settlements.**

304. A report on a scheme for the maintenance of record-of-rights in Eastern Bengal was submitted by Mr. Beatson Bell shortly after the close of the year. There was no organised system of recording mutations in Government and Wards' estates in any district in East Bengal except Bogra, and even there the work was not done thoroughly. The results obtained in the record of mutations and the inspection of rent-rolls in Government estates in West Bengal were on the whole satisfactory. The work of inspection and maintenance of boundary marks received due attention. **Maintenance of records.** **Boundary marks.**

Waste Lands.

Waste Lands.

305. The number of leases granted under the rules of 1853 in the 24-Parganas and Khulna portions of the Sundarbans was 131. The rent payable under them is Rs. 1,33,447, which will eventually rise to Rs. 1,35,802. The rules for the grant of waste lands in those districts are still under suspension, and draft rules to be substituted for them are under the consideration of Government. The number of leases in the 24-Parganas under the large capitalists' rules was 188 as in the previous year. The rent payable under them is Rs. 70,329, rising eventually to Rs. 2,35,111. In Khulna the number of leases under the large and small capitalists' rules was 22 and 9 respectively. The eventual maximum rent expected from the former is Rs. 22,206, and that from the latter Rs. 14,916. In Sagar Island the number of leases was 6, covering an area of 20,362 acres. The present rent is Rs. 956, which will eventually rise to Rs. 11,931.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal, 1911-1912.]

Number and management.

306. The total number of estates under direct management, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 2,199, with a current demand of Rs. 38,76,171. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 7·13. The condition of the tenants was on the whole satisfactory. Good crops were obtained in practically all the estates. There was no material change in the system of management. In Midnapore a special temporary staff, including one Sub-Deputy Collector and one Kanungo, was entertained for a part of the year to cope with the rush of work in the Contai Khas Mahal Department caused by the introduction of a new method of registration of mutations, and the institution of a large number of civil suits by the *khas mahal* tenants arising out of the recently completed settlement proceedings. The reorganization scheme for the Backergunge *khas mahals*, introduced in the previous year, by which direct collection by a small number of gazetted officers has been substituted for collection by a large staff of low-paid tahsildars and muharrirs, has produced better results than the old system.

Grants for improvements.

307. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,56,156 under the head of "Miscellaneous and Sanitary improvements," Rs. 14,107 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 74,158 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 3,410 on roads and bridges, and the remainder on miscellaneous objects, including tree-planting. The largest unspent balances out of the total grant of Rs. 1,64,374 sanctioned by the Board for works of improvement were in the Dacca (Rs. 4,331), Burdwan (Rs. 2,257) and Chittagong (Rs. 1,803) Divisions.

Colonisation in the Backergunge Sundarbans.

308. During the year 317 new colonists were settled on 8,398 bighas, as against 346 colonists on 11,616 bighas in the year 1910-1911. The decrease is due to the fact that most of the land available for colonisation in Kalamegha has now been settled. Agricultural improvements, which form the largest item of the expenditure, consist of the construction and maintenance of dams and embankments for the protection of the land from salt water. The provision and maintenance of these works is vital to the success of the colonisation scheme, and the colonisation officer and his staff were continuously engaged in supervising them. The cultivators themselves carried out the petty repairs to these works. An excellent crop was obtained by the settlers. Weather conditions in the Sundarbans were on the whole favourable. There was a mild outbreak of cholera in Kalamegha which caused some deaths. The general result of the colonisation work during the year is satisfactory. The good crops obtained have attracted settlers, and any land protected by bunds is at once in demand.

Roads.

309. The expenditure on roads and communications in Government estates amounted to Rs. 1,47,281 against the Government 1½ per cent. grant of Rs. 72,965. The expenditure exceeded the grant in all except the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The excess amount was met from

District Board, Municipal or other local funds. In Backergunge a sum of Rs. 4,283 was spent in improving communications by clearing silt from khals.

Education.

310. The total expenditure on education in Government estates during the year was Rs. 55,439 against a Government grant of Rs. 52,447. The excess expenditure was met from local grants. In all the divisions, except the Presidency, there was an increase in the number of schools maintained in Government estates. In the Presidency Division the number remained the same as in the previous year, namely 215. The number of pupils increased in all the divisions. The increase was most marked in Burdwan (2,131), Dacca (1,651) and Chittagong (1,108). In the Burdwan Division, which contains the large estates of Jalamutha and Majnamutha, there are now as many as 1,089 Government estate schools with 29,671 pupils. The total number of Government estate schools and pupils in the whole Presidency is 2,293 and 74,304, respectively.

Sale of estates.

311. Fifty-eight estates, covering an area of 2,144 acres in the Burdwan, Presidency, Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions, were sold during the year for Rs. 9,849, subject to a total revenue of Rs. 2,360. In addition to the above, three plots of Railway B class land with an area of 45 acres were sold revenue-free in the district of Nadia for Rs. 1,850.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for 1911-1912.]

Number of estates and payment of Government demands.

312. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 73, including three estates the management of which was undertaken during the year under report. Five estates were released, leaving 68 estates under management at the close of the year. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government, including an arrear demand of Rs. 1,26,510, was Rs. 14,72,499. Payments amounted to Rs. 13,57,259 or 93·5 per cent. against 91·0 per cent. in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,17,326. The heaviest balances were due by the Tagore and Mukharji estates (in 24-Parganas). These balances are, however, being steadily reduced year by year.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.

313. The rent and cesses due to superior landlords were paid to the extent of only 60·3 per cent. of the amount due as against 63·9 per cent. in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,44,412 out of a total demand of Rs. 8,70,448. The bulk of the sum of Rs. 26,574 due from the Bawali estate in the district of 24-Parganas is payable to co-sharers against whom the estate has a counter-claim. Owing to their remissness, the accounts could not be adjusted during the year. The balance of Rs. 13,500 is due by the Mukharji estate to the widow of the eldest brother of the wards who has assigned her rights to a third party. The legal opinion is that the estate is not liable to pay this amount to the assignee.

Collection of rent and cesses.

314. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year was Rs. 98,58,428, including an arrear demand of Rs. 56,89,116. Out of this, Rs. 42,99,938 or 43·6 per cent. were collected against 42·5 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collection on current demand was 103·1 against 101·6 in the year before. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was exceeded in all the divisions, the lowest percentage 101·3 being in the Dacca Division and the highest 111·1 being in the Rajshahi Division.

Balances of rent and cesses.

315. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates aggregated Rs. 51,98,486, representing 124·6 per cent. on the current demand and 52·7 per cent. on the total demand against 126·9 per cent. and 53·0 per cent. respectively in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in the Dacca (167·8 per cent.), Chittagong (106·3 per cent.) and the Presidency Divisions (100·2 per cent.), and were below it in the Burdwan (84·7 per cent.) and the Rajshahi Divisions (53·0 per cent). In the Burdwan Division considerable progress was made during the year in writing off amounts that were barred by limitation before the estates came under the management of the Court of Wards, as well as those that were fictitious. But of the total balance of Rs. 2,39,138, Rs. 1,77,585 is reported to be

good and in process of recovery. In the Presidency Division also there has been further improvement in the reduction of arrear balances. In the Dacca Division all the estates, with the exception of a few small ones in the district of Backergunge, show a very high percentage of outstanding balances. The reason is that most of the big estates have been taken charge of only in recent years, and the balances mostly accumulated prior to the assumption of charge.

Debts of estates. 316. The debts of the Pachetgarh estate in the Burdwan Division were reduced by Rs. 15,124 to Rs. 53,314. No contribution could be made towards the payment of the principal of the debt of the Jhargram estate which stood at Rs. 6,28,415 at the close of the year. Negotiations for raising a consolidated loan at a reduced rate of interest have not yet succeeded. In the Presidency Division the debts of the Tagore estate, after payment of Rs. 79,780, stood at Rs. 18,31,412 at the end of the year. No part of the principal of the debt of the Mukharji estate, which stood at Rs. 2,21,043, could be paid during the year. The interest due, however, was fully cleared off. An endeavour is being made to facilitate the reduction of the debt of the estate of Khwaja Atikulla in the district of Dacca which stood at Rs. 8,91,556 at the close of the year, partly by the sale of a portion of the estate and partly by raising a loan at a low rate of interest. In the Chittagong Division there has been steady progress in the repayment of the debts of Bhukailas estate No. 1, these being reduced from Rs. 3,07,047 in the year 1910-1911 to Rs. 285,000 at the close of the year.

Management charges. 317. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demond was for the whole province 12·1 against 11·6 in the preceding year. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions, except in the Presidency, where it was 9·4. With a view to reduce the high percentage of 15·0 in the Boinchee Behary Lal Mukharji's Trust estate in the district of Hooghly, the post of the Sub-Manager has been abolished by the Commissioner since the close of the year. The high percentage of 14·6 in the Karatia estate in the district of Mymensingh is attributed to the fact that the properties of the estate are scattered over different districts, and separate establishments had to be employed for collection in each. The percentage of cost in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar estate rose to 17·7 from 16·7 in the preceding year, and the percentage in the Rangpur portion of the estate is very high, being 20·2 ; a scheme for reducing it is being considered.

Improvements. 318. The standard fixed for expenditure on schools is 1 per cent., and that on agricultural and sanitary improvements 3 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand of an estate. The total amount spent on improvements was Rs. 1,50,589, chiefly for schools and dispensaries. Agricultural demonstrations were conducted in the Boinchee Behary Lal Mukharji's Trust estate and in the Syedpur Trust estate at Daulatpur. No agricultural improvements or experiments of importance appear to have been undertaken in any of the estates in the other three divisions.

Lady Assistant. 319. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards, continued to do much useful work, in advising the ladies of the zenanas of Wards' estates on various matters, and in looking after the education, health and comfort of these ladies as well as of minor wards. The sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India was received during the year to her post of Lady Assistant being made permanent and pensionable on a salary of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000, with a personal allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem to the present incumbent.

Education of the wards. 320. The arrangements made for the education of wards and the results achieved continued to be satisfactory.

Revenue and Rent-paying classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal, 1911-1912. Divisional Miscellaneous Report, 1911-1912.]

Bengal Tenancy Act. 321. Excluding Darjeeling, the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta, the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force throughout the Presidency. On the whole, it worked smoothly throughout the year. Its main provisions

are now fairly well known both to landlords and tenants; but there are indications that the importance of various sections has not yet been realised by the public. For instance, practically no objections to the price lists of the staple food-crops are received, and applications for registration of improvements are almost exclusively confined to estates under the direct management of Government.

It is reported that in Birbhum the landlords are endeavouring by filing ejectment suits against transferees to establish their claim that the tenants of occupancy holdings have no right to transfer them. In Midnapore, the recent survey and record-of-rights of the large Government khas mahals has given rise to a number of disputes which are now pending decision in the civil courts. The Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri remarks that the people of his district are becoming better acquainted with the provisions of the Act owing to the general survey and record-of-rights now nearing completion, but he considers that the Act, as it stands, is not entirely suitable to the local system of landholding.

Rent receipts.

322. The provisions of the Tenancy Act as to the nature and issue of rent receipts are not yet properly observed by all landlords. There were during the year 97 proceedings against landlords under section 58 of the Act for failure to grant proper receipts; but only 29 ended in conviction. Of the rest 24 were struck off, 15 were dismissed and 29 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of proceedings, however, is not a true index of the extent to which the provisions of the law are ignored.

Illegal cesses.

323. The levy of *abwabs* or illegal cesses in addition to rent continues to prevail more or less throughout the Presidency. One form of illegal exaction which is reported from Hooghly, Dacca and Faridpur, and which probably is to be met with in other districts as well, is the levy from the tenants of road and public works cesses at one anna in the rupee instead of the statutory rate of half-an-anna. It is reported that, as a rule, the tenants pay these illegal demands without much demur in order to escape harassment in other ways, but that a tendency (though by no means of a marked nature) to resist these demands is displaying itself, more especially in those districts in which a record-of-rights has recently been prepared. It has been suggested with some force by the Commissioner of the Dacca Division that in his division the legal rents are generally low as compared with the value of the produce of the soil, and that therefore the tenants think it well worth their while to keep in the good books of their landlords by complying with these illegal demands instead of submitting to an enhancement of their regular rents.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

324. In Nadia district the relations between landlords and tenants were strained during the year, owing to disputes over the taking of *maurusi* leases in Chuadanga subdivision, about enhancement of rents in the Ranaghat subdivision, and regarding the demand of illegal cesses in the Meherpur subdivision. Several landlords in Murshidabad district had friction with their tenants, but in the remaining districts of the Presidency Division relations appear to have been on the whole conciliatory. Some cases of friction were reported from the Burdwan Division. A general improvement was observed in the Chittagong Division.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

The Legislative Councils of Lieutenant-Governors.

325. Prior to the 1st April, 1912 (from which date the new Presidency of Fort William in Bengal under a Governor in Council came into existence) the local legislative authorities in Bengal were the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and (for Eastern Bengal) the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

The Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

326. The Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was established by Proclamation of the Governor General of India in Council published in the Calcutta Gazette on the 17th January, 1862. The Proclamation was made in exercise of powers conferred by section 44 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and it took the form, contemplated by that section, of extending to Bengal the provisions of that Act touching the making of laws and regulations for the peace and good government of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay. The Proclamation was declared to take effect from the 18th January, 1862, and the first meeting of the Council was held on the 1st February in that year.

Constitution in 1862 and 1893.

327. The Council at first consisted of twelve members and a President, namely, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the members being nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor with the sanction of the Governor General. By section 1(*2*) of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, the Governor General in Council was empowered to increase the number of members up to a maximum of twenty, and by a Proclamation dated the 16th March, 1893, the number was increased to twenty, all being nominated, as before, by the Lieutenant-Governor with the sanction of the Governor General. By regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, it was provided—

(1) that not more than ten of the twenty members should be officials ;
(2) that nominations to seven seats should be made on the recommendation of—
  (*a*) the Corporation of Calcutta,
  (*b*) such Municipal Corporations or group or groups of Municipal Corporations (other than the Corporation of Calcutta) as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe,
  (*c*) such District Boards or group or groups of District Boards as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe,
  (*d*) such Association or Associations of Landholders as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe,
  (*e*) such Association or Associations of merchants, manufacturers or tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, and
  (*f*) the Senate of the University of Calcutta,

  each of these six bodies or Associations having at least one Councillor nominated upon its recommendation, and the District Boards two Councillors ; and

(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor might, at his discretion, nominate persons to the remaining seats so as to secure a fair representation of the different classes of the community.

Constitution in 1910.

328. By the Indian Councils Act, 1909, two important changes were made in the constitution of the Council. The principle of direct election was introduced, and the maximum number of members was raised from twenty

to fifty. By regulations made under this Act on the 15th November, 1909, it was provided—

(1) that twenty-six members should be elected as follow :—

by the Corporation of Calcutta ...	...	1 member.
„ University of Calcutta ...	...	1 „
„ Municipal Commissioners...	...	6 members.
„ District Boards ...	...	6 „
„ Landholders ...	...	5 „
„ Muhammadan community	...	4 „
„ Bengal Chamber of Commerce	...	2 „
„ Calcutta Trades Association	...	1 member.

(2) that not more than twenty-two members should be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, with the sanction of the Governor General, and that of these members—

(*a*) not more than seventeen might be officials, and

(*b*) two should be non-official persons, to be selected, one from the Indian commercial community and one from the planting community, and

(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor might nominate two more persons, whether officials or non-officials, having expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation.

The regulations thus authorised the constitution of a Council of the full number of members allowed by the Act, viz., fifty. To this number was added the President, and the members of the Bengal Executive Council, who were *ex officio* members of the Legislative Council by virtue of section 3(*4*) of the Act. The regulations declared that the power of nominating officials was not to be exercised so as to produce an official majority. They also contained provisions as to the qualifications of candidates for election, the making by elected and nominated members of an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown, bye-elections, corrupt practices at elections, the quorum at meetings of the Council, and other matters, and they increased from two years to three the term of office of members. Section 4 of the Act provided for the appointment of a Vice-President of the Council. The first meeting of the Council, as constituted under the Act and the regulations made thereunder, was held on the 4th January, 1910.

Legislative powers.

329. The legislative authority of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor was declared by the Proclamation of 1862 to extend to all the provinces, districts and places administered by him. The Council had power to make laws for the peace and good government of these territories, and for that purpose to repeal and amend any laws and regulations made before the 1st August, 1861, by any authority in India ; but it could not make laws which would in any way affect any Act of Parliament (*see* the Indian Councils Act, 1861, sections 42 and 48). The implied prohibition to repeal or amend laws made after the 1st August, 1861, by any authority in India was removed by the Indian Councils Act, 1892, section 5, which authorises local legislatures to make such repeals and amendments with the previous sanction of the Governor General. It was further provided by section 43 (read with section 48) of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, that the Bengal Council should not, without the previous sanction of the Governor General, make or take into consideration any laws for any of the following purposes, namely :—

(1) affecting the public debt of India, or the customs duties, or any other tax or duty imposed by the authority of the Government of India for the general purposes of such Government ;

(2) regulating any of the current coin, or the issue of any bills, notes or other paper currency ;

(3) regulating the conveyance of letters by the post-office or messages by the electric telegraph ;

(4) altering in any way the Penal Code of India, as established by Act of the Governor General in Council, No. 45 of 1860 ;

(5) affecting the religion or religious rites and usages of any class of His Majesty's subjects in India ;
(6) affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of His Majesty's military or naval forces ;
(7) regulating patents or copyright ; or
(8) affecting the relations of the Government with foreign Princes or States.

Rules for the conduct of legislative business, Bengal.

330. Revised rules for the conduct of legislative business in the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor were made by the Council on the 18th January, 1890, and some new rules were added in March, 1904.

Validity of Bengal Council Acts.

331. Acts passed by the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal were subject to the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor General, and no such Act had validity until the assent of the Governor General had been signified to, and published by, the Lieutenant-Governor : if the Governor General withheld his assent the reason therefor had to be signified by him tot he Lieutenant-Governor in writing (*see* the Indian Councils Act, sections 39, 40, 48). Any Act made by the Council might be disallowed by the Crown (*see* Indian Councils Act, sections 41, 48), or might be repealed or amended by an Act of the Governor General in Council (*see ib.*, section 22), or by a Regulation made by the Governor General in Council under the Government of India Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict., c. 3), s. 1.

Other functions of the Council.

332. Legislation was not the only function of the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. By section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, the Lieutenant-Governor was empowered to make rules for authorising the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement of the Government of Bengal, and the asking of questions at meetings of the Council, but it was provided that no member should have power to submit or propose any resolution or to divide the Council in respect of any financial discussion or the answer to any question. That section was repealed *in toto* by the Indian Councils Act, 1909, by section 5 of which the Lieutenant-Governor was required to make rules for the same purposes and also for authorising the discussion of matters of general public interest at meetings of the Council. Rules under the new Act were made in December, 1909.

Rules for the discussion of the Financial Statement.

333. The rules made by the Lieutenant-Governor for the discussion of the Financial Statement provided in the first instance for the preliminary consideration by a Finance Committee of the Council of the distribution of the funds which were available under the Budget for expenditure which might be described as optional. The Committee consisted of twelve members of the Council, six of whom were nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor and six elected by the non-official members of the Council. It was directed that tabular statements should be laid before the Committee, showing—

(*a*) the opening balance of the provincial account ;
(*b*) the estimated provincial revenue under the various major heads of account ;
(*c*) the estimated provincial expenditure, under specific major heads, on existing establishments and schemes, and on new schemes the cost of which was not considerable or which the Local Government considered to be of an absolutely obligatory character ;
(*d*) the amounts available for maximum recurring expenditure and for total expenditure upon other new schemes, the latter being provisionally included under a head " Unallotted Expenditure ;"
(*e*) the estimated closing balance ; and
(*f*) a memorandum detailing as fully as possible the manner in which the Local Government proposed to allot the sum available for total expenditure on new schemes as in clause (*d*) above, and also indicating, if thought desirable, alternative methods of distributing this expenditure. In respect of each suggestion thus made, the maximum recurring expenditure, and the total expenditure—(*a*) recurring and (*b*) non-recurring—which it was proposed to incur in the next financial year, was stated separately.

The Finance Committee submitted its report to the Local Government, indicating the changes which it recommended in the draft Financial Statement, and, on receipt of that report, the Local Government might revise the Statement as they thought fit. A report was then submitted to the Government of India, stating the modifications suggested.

After revision by the Government of India, the draft was reprinted under the title of the Revised Financial Statement, and, after circulation to members of the Council, was laid before the Council for discussion, being introduced and explained in sections dealing with the receipts and expenditure under particular heads, by the members in charge of the different Departments concerned. Members had then a right to move resolutions relating to entries in the Statement, subject to certain restrictions which barred certain matters from discussion. Time-limits were imposed for speeches, and the President was empowered to assign a limit of time for the discussion of all resolutions or of any particular resolution. When resolutions were carried, they had effect only as recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The next stage was to amend the Financial Statement with reference to resolutions carried in Council and accepted by the Lieutenant-Governor and to any special circumstances not previously foreseen, and to submit it to the Government of India. The Statement, in the form in which it was finally sanctioned by that Government, was known as the "Budget." This was circulated to members of the Council, and was open to general discussion in Council; but no resolutions might be moved upon it, and it was not submitted to the vote. The discussion was limited to those branches of revenue and expenditure which were under the financial control of the Local Government, and the President was again empowered to prescribe a time-limit for speeches.

Questions.

334. The rules made by the Lieutenant-Governor for the asking of questions admitted of any member of the Council asking any question on any subject, except matters affecting Foreign States or Native States and matters under adjudication by any Court of Law. Some restrictions upon the form of questions were also imposed, and ten days' notice of questions was ordinarily required. The President was empowered to disallow any question without assigning any reason other than that it could not be answered consistently with the public interest or that it should be put in another Legislative Council. Questions were printed in the list of business, and were taken as read, but the answers were delivered at length. A member who had asked a question had a right to put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which a request for information had been made in his original question. The official member in charge of the subject-matter, however, might decline to answer a supplementary question without notice, and the President had power to disallow any supplementary question without assigning reasons. The President was also empowered to rule that an answer to a question entered in the list of business for the day should be given on the ground of public interest, even though the question had been withdrawn. No discussion was permitted in respect of any question or answer. The President was empowered to assign a limit of time for the putting and answering of questions.

Discussion of matters of general public interest.

335. The rules for the discussion of matters of general public interest in the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal admitted of any member of the Council moving a resolution on any subject, with certain restrictions designed to prevent fruitless discussion, and certain restrictions as to form. Fifteen days' notice of resolutions was ordinarily required. The President was empowered to disallow any resolution without assigning any reason other than that it could not be moved consistently with the public interest or that it should be moved in another Legislative Council. Time-limits were imposed for speeches on resolutions, namely, thirty minutes for the mover of a resolution, the same for the official member in charge of the subject-matter, and fifteen minutes for other members; and the President was empowered to assign a limit of time for the discussion of resolutions or of any particular resolution. Speeches might be printed and circulated to members in advance, and might, when the Council met, be taken as read. The discussion on a resolution was limited to the subject of the resolution, and could

not extend to any matter as to which a resolution might not have been moved. When a resolution was under discussion, any member might move an amendment. When resolutions were carried, they had effect only as recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

336. The Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam was established by Proclamation of the Governor-General of India in Council published in the Gazette of India on the 2nd September, 1905. The Proclamation was made under the Indian Councils Act, 1861. It constituted Assam a Province to which the provisions of that Act touching the making of laws and regulations for the peace and good order of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay should be applicable, directed that the Province so constituted should be called the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, appointed a Lieutenant-Governor for the Province, and transferred thereto the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Backergunge, Tippera, Noakhali, Chittagong, the Chittagong Hill-tracts, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Malda from the Province of Bengal. The Proclamation was declared to take effect from the 16th October, 1905, and the first meeting of the Council was held on the 18th December, 1906.

Constitution in 1906

337. The Council at first consisted of fifteen members and a President, namely, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, the members being nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor with the sanction of the Governor General. By regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, it was provided—

(1) that not more than seven of the fifteen members should be officials ;

(2) that nominations to six seats should be made on the recommendation of—

(*a*) such Municipal Corporations or group or groups of Municipal Corporations, as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe,

(*b*) such Districts and Local Boards or group or groups of District and Local Boards as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe.

(*c*) such Association or Associations of Landholders as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe,

(*d*) such Association or Associations of merchants, manufactures or traders as the Lieutenant-Governor might prescribe, and

(*e*) the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong,

each of these five bodies or Associations having at least one Councillor nominated upon its recommendation, and those mentioned in clauses (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) not more than one each ; and

(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor might, at his discretion, nominate persons to the remaining seats so as to secure a fair representation of the difierent classes of the community.

Constitution in 1910.

338. By the Indian Councils Act, 1909, the principle of direct election was introduced, and the maximum number of members was raised from twenty to fifty. By regulations made under this Act on the 15th November, 1909, it was provided—

(1) that eighteen members should be elected as follows :—

by the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong		1 Member.
„ Municipal Commissioners	... ...	3 Members.
„ District and Local Boards	... ...	5 „
„ Landholders ...	... ...	2 „
„ Muhammadan Community	... ...	4 „
„ Tea interest ...	... ...	2 „
„ Jute interest ...	... ...	1 Member.

(2) that not more than twenty-two members should be nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, with the sanction of the Governor-General, and that of these members—

(*a*) not more than seventeen might be officials, and

(*b*) one should be a non-official person to be selected from the Indian Commercial Community, and

(3) that the Lieutenant-Governor might nominate two more persons, whether officials or non-officials, having expert knowledge of subjects connected with proposed or pending legislation.

The regulations thus authorized the constitution of a Council of forty-two members. To this number was added the President himself, making forty-three members in all. In other respects the regulations were similar to those made for the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and described in paragraph 5, above. The first meeting of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as constituted under the new Act and the regulations made thereunder, was held on the 4th January, 1910.

Legislative Powers.

339. Under the Proclamation of the 2nd September, 1905, which established the Council (*vide* paragraph 16, above), the legislative authority of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor extended throughout the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Council had the same powers as to the making, amending and repealing of laws as the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, as to which *see* paragraph 6, above.

Rules for the conduct of legislative business, E. B. A.

340. Rules for the conduct of legislative business in the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam were made by the Lieutenant-Governor in May, 1906, and amended by the Council in March, 1910.

Validity of Eastern Bengal and Assam Acts.

341. Acts passed by the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam were subject to the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor General, and were, like Acts passed by the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, subject to the provisions mentioned in paragraph 8, above.

Other functions of the Council.

342. As in the case of the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council had other functions besides legislation, namely, those mentioned in paragraph 9, above. Rules under section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1909, were made for the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council as follows :—

(*a*) for the discussion of matters of general public interest and for the asking of questions in the Council, in December, 1909, and

(*b*) for the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement, in January 1910.

These rules were practically identical with those made for the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal which are summarised in paragraphs 333 to 335, above.

The Legislative Council of the Governor of Bengal.

343. On the formation of the new Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and the appointment of a Governor for that Presidency, the Lieutenant-Governorships of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam ceased to exist. The Government of India Act, 1912 (2 & 3 Geo. 5, c. 6), section 1(*1*), applies to the Governor and Governor in Council of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts relating to the Governors and Governors in Council of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay ; and the effect of this enactment is that—

(*a*) a Legislative Council for Bengal must be constituted under section 29 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 (24 & 25 Vict., c. 67), as amended by the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. 7 c. 4), and the Government of India Act, 1912, section 1,

(*b*) new rules for the conduct of legislative business must be made under section 37 of the Act of 1861, and

(*c*) new rules for the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement, and of matters of general public interest, and for the asking of questions, must be made under section 5 of the Act of 1909.

Legislative powers

344. The legislative authority of the new Bengal Legislative Council will extend throughout the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and its legislative powers will be the same as those of the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor, which are described in paragraph 6, above.

The Governor General in Council.

345. In addition to the Bengal Legislative Council, the Governor General in Council legislates for Bengal. Such legislation takes the form of—

(1) Acts passed at legislative meetings under the Indian Councils Acts, 1861, 1892 and 1909, and

(2) Regulations made in Executive Council under the Government of India Act, 1870 (33 & 34 Vict., c. 3).

Acts of the Governor General in Council affecting Bengal apply for the most part to other Provinces as well. They commonly apply to the whole of British India. Some such Acts have been passed for Bengal alone; but this is now done but rarely, since section 5 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892 (55 & 56 Vict., c. 14), has provided a means for removing the bar which used to cripple the powers of the local legislature. Regulations under the Government of India Act, 1870, are only made for backward tracts, such as the Chittagong Hill-tracts, to which the Act is specially applied by resolution of the Secretary of State for India in Council.

Parliament.

346. Lastly, Parliament retains power to legislate for Bengal in common with other British Possessions.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1911-12.

347. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1911-1912, as follows :—

(1) *Bengal Act III of 1911* [*The Bengal Local Government Act, 1911*].—The object of this Act was to give full effect to the establishment of an Executive Council in Bengal, by directing that the statutory functions of the Lieutenant-Governor should, with certain exceptions, be discharged by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(2) *Bengal Act IV of 1911* [*The Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Act, 1911*].—This Act empowers the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division to stay the sale of immovable property, in execution of a decree or order of a Civil or Revenue Court, when an application has been made for an order vesting the property in a manager under the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876 (VI of 1876).

(3) *Bengal Act V of 1911* [*The Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911*].—This Act provides for the improvement and expansion of Calcutta by opening up congested areas, laying out or altering streets, providing open spaces for purposes of ventilation or recreation, demolishing or constructing buildings, and acquiring land for those purposes and for the re-housing of persons of the poorer and working classes who are displaced by the execution of improvement schemes.

The Act constitutes a Board of Trustees, called "the Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta," who are empowered to undertake schemes of general improvement or of street improvement, whether upon official representation or otherwise, whenever such action may appear desirable in order to safeguard the health of the inhabitants of the localities affected, or (in the case of street schemes) to provide building sites, remedy defective ventilation, or improve the means of communication or facilities for conservancy. As the acquisition of land will enter largely into all such projects, the Act provides for the constitution of a Special Tribunal for the performance of the functions of the Court under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894; and various restrictions and modifications are introduced into the Land Acquisition Act in its application to land acquired in connection with schemes undertaken under the Act. The constitution, procedure, duties and

responsibilities, both of the Board of Trustees and of the Tribunal, are defined in the Act, which also provides for placing funds at the disposal of the Board.

The following special sources of revenue (excluding the subvention given by the Imperial Government outside the Act) are rendered available by the Act (*Chapters V and VI*) :—

(*a*) an increase, at the rate of two per cent. *ad valorem*, in the duty imposed by the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, on instruments of sale, gift or usufructuary mortgage executed in respect of immoveable property situated in the Calcutta Municipality ;

(*b*) a tax, at the rate of half-an-anna. on each journey made by passengers arriving in or leaving Calcutta by railway or inland steam-vessel, from or for places situated within a radius ordinarily of more than 30 miles from Government House ;

(*c*) a Customs duty on all jute exported by sea from Calcutta to any other port, at such rates, not exceeding prescribed *maxima*, as the Local Government may prescribe ;

(*d*) a quarterly contribution to the Board by the Corporation of Calcutta of a sum equivalent to one-half per cent. per quarter on the annual valuation determined under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, the Corporation being however required to make good to the Board any sum by which this contribution and the enhanced stamp duty referred to in clause (*a*) above fall short, in the aggregate, of Rs. 7,50,000 *per annum ;* and

(*e*) loans to be taken with the previous sanction of the Government of India.

Provision is made (sections 98 and 99) for the repayment of loans by the maintenance of sinking funds, or by periodical instalments, or by other means.

All or any of the foregoing duties, taxes and contributions may, from time to time, be suspended or abolished by the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Government of India, if at any time it is considered that they are not required for the purposes of the Act; and any duty, tax or contribution which has been suspended or abolished may be re-imposed, if it be required (section 176).

Power is taken to enforce the liabilities of the Board and the Corporation of Calcutta as prescribed by the Act (sections 105 to 107) ; and financial control is enforced by the preparation of estimates, which will require the approval of the Local Government (sections 108 to 110), and by directions as to the maintenance of capital and revenue accounts, the items to be credited to each account and the purposes to which each account may be applied (sections 121 to 125), by requiring submission of abstracts of accounts to the Local Government (section 129), and by conferring powers on auditors to be appointed by the Local Government (sections 130 and 131).

Various powers for making rules are conferred, and sundry supplemental provisions are introduced, noticeably a provision (section 149) giving power to the Board, with the sanction of the Local Government, to guarantee or subsidise tramways or other means of locomotion.

Further, the Local Government is empowered, with the previous sanction of the Government of India, to dissolve the Board at any time when all schemes sanctioned under the Act have been executed or are so far advanced as to render the continued existence of the Board unnecessary ; and from the date of dissolution the assets and liabilities of the Board will be transferred to the Calcutta Corporation (section 177).

The origin of the Act was the report of a special Plague Commission appointed by the Local Government in October, 1896, to devise measures for the prevention of an outbreak of plague in Calcutta, and the report of a Commission which was directed in 1897 to report upon the requirements of Calcutta in respect of building laws and the best means of opening out

congested areas. Both documents brought to prominent notice the extent to which overcrowding prevailed in some parts of the city, noticeably in the northern portions ; and it was decided that special measures were required by which funds could be raised for the construction of roads traversing the localities in question.

The Act is based largely upon the precedent of the City of Bombay Improvement Act, 1898, as modified by Bombay Act IV of 1901, consideration having also been given to further amendments suggested by subsequent actual experience of the working of those Acts.

The Act was brought into force in January, 1912, and a Board of Trustees was constituted shortly afterwards. The first improvement scheme framed under the Act was published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 24th July, 1912, Part I, page 1253.

By an Act, No. VIII of 1911, passed by the Governor General in Council, provision has been made for an appeal to the High Court from certain decisions of the Land Acquisition Tribunal.

(4) *Bengal Act I of 1912* [*The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1912*].—The objects of this Act are—

(*a*) to amend sections 49 and 50 of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, so as to define more clearly the powers of the Port Commissioners and their Vice-Chairman, respectively, in the matter of sanctioning works and entering into contracts for their execution, and

(*b*) to amend section 73 of the same Act (as to adherence to estimates), so as to make it applicable only to sums chargeable against income.

(5) *Bengal Act II of 1912* [*The Bengal Mining Settlements Act, 1912*].—The object of this Act is to provide a procedure for enforcing sanitation in mining settlements. A large coal industry has been rapidly developed in limited areas, and great numbers of illiterate and undisciplined labourers have settled therein. No practical effort was formerly made to carry out even the most elementary and necessary sanitary arrangements, except in a few areas, the inhabitants of which had justification for complaining that their neighbours were not compelled to take measures such as they had themselves introduced. The result was the regular visitation of epidemic disease, and the Indian Mining Association frequently moved for legislation to secure the enforcement of sanitary regulations.

One difficulty in dealing with the subject was that the areas above ground in the vicinity of a mine, which require sanitation, are not all under the control of the same colliery, the lands belonging to the owners of mines and the zamindars being intermixed. The Act therefore empowers the Local Government to appoint a Sanitary Committee, to be called the Mines Board of Health, for each mining district, whose duty it will be to report to the Government, on the basis of local knowledge and with the help of maps prepared by the Geological Survey Department, what specific areas should be brought under sanitary control. Notifications will then be published in the Gazette, declaring (after the lapse of a reasonable time, during which objections may be lodged) the areas to be mining settlements. Permanent Sanitary officers will be appointed, to report what measures of sanitation are required in mining settlements and to assist in carrying out the provisions of the Act, and they will be under the direct control of the Board.

When a Mines Board of Health decides what sanitary measures are required, it will serve a notice on mine-owners and land-owners, requiring them to take the necessary action ; and, in their default, will take the necessary action itself, recovering the cost from the owners of the mines and from royalty-receivers. All sums chargeable to mine-owners and royalty-receivers will be apportioned in such manner as the Local Government may direct, and will be recovered in the same manner as arrears of land-revenue.

Section 11 empowers the Local Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes and objects of the Act.

348. During the year 1911-1912 the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council passed four Acts, all of which apply to Eastern Bengal, which was transferred on the 1st April, 1912 to the new Presidency of Fort William in Bengal. The Acts are as follows :—

Acts passed by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council during 1911-1912.

(1) *Eastern Bengal and Assam Act I of 1911* [*The Eastern Bengal and Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1911*].—This Act reproduces, for Eastern Bengal, Bengal Act II of 1909, which was enacted for Western Bengal. It introduces five words into the Court of Wards Act, 1879 (Bengal Act IX of 1879), to admit of loans being made from the funds of an estate under the administration of the Court of Wards to another such estate.

(2) *Eastern Bengal and Assam Act I of 1912* [*The Chittagong Port Commissioners (Amendment) Act, 1912*].—This Act empowers the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong to levy a Customs duty on jute exported by sea to any other port (except raw jute exported to Calcutta), at such rates, not exceeding prescribed *maxima*, as the Local Government may prescribe. It was passed in order to prevent any diversion of trade from Calcutta which might have resulted from the imposition of the similar tax under the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911.

(3) *Eastern Bengal and Assam Act II of 1912* [*The Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912*].—The object of this Act is to provide for the maintenance of trustworthy records of vital occurrences on tea-gardens in the Duars, and statistical information regarding the economic condition of the labour population there. The Act prescribes the keeping of registers and the submission of returns by employers, and gives a right of inspection for the purpose of verifying such registers and returns. It extends, in the first instance, to the district of Jalpaiguri, and may be extended to other parts of Eastern Bengal by the Local Government.

(4) *Eastern Bengal and Assam Act III of 1912* [*The Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police Act, 1912*].—This Act re-enacts, with amendments, the law (Act V of 1892) in force in Eastern Bengal, relating to the regulation of the Military Police. The principal amendments are the recognition of the authority of Assistant Commandants and the addition of penal clauses [section 7 (*e*) and (*t*)] in respect of conduct prejudical to good order and military discipline.

Bills transferred to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

349. The Orissa Tenancy Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council in July, 1911, and, after exhaustive examination and much amendment by a Select Committee, was passed by the Council on the 27th March, 1912. On the same date the Bill received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor and was submitted to the Government of India with a view to obtaining the assent of the Governor General. His Excellency's assent was, however, withheld. The Bill has been transferred to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, and it is understood that it will be introduced in the Legislative Council of that Province, when constituted.

The main objects of the Bill are—

(*a*) to consolidate, simplify and re-arrange the greater part of the Statute Law relating to landlord and tenant in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore ;

(*b*) to restore to holders of sub-proprietary interests and of resumed (*baiiatti*) revenue-free lands the position which they held for nearly a century before the extension of certain provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, to the said districts in 1891 and later years ;

(*c*) to secure raiyats in those districts in the enjoyment of their existing rights, both statutory and customary ;

(*d*) to make a definite extension of the area held as private lands by proprietors and sub-proprietors, in consideration for the security of tenure to be afforded to their tenants in lands reclaimed from waste ;

(*e*) to improve the procedure for the recovery of rents due to proprietors and sub-proprietors ;

(*f*) to remove, so far as possible, ambiguities, defects and anomalies which are known to exist in the present law ; and

(*g*) to provide for the maintenance of land records.

The following Bills have also been transferred to the Government of Bihar and Orissa—

(1) *the Bengal Estates Partition (Amendment) Bill.* This Bill was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council in February 1911, and was much discussed departmentally during the year, but was not again brought before the Legislative Council. The object of the Bill is to make various amendments in the Estates Partition Act, 1897 (Bengal Act V of 1897), in order to reduce delays in *batwara* proceedings.

(2) *the Bengal Irrigation (Private Works) Bill*, which is mentioned in paragraph 27 of the Summary prefixed to the Bengal Administration Report for 1910-1911.

(3) *the Benaal Private Forests Bill*, the objects of which are (*a*) to empower the Government to intervene, in the public interest, to preserve private forests from destruction, and (*b*) to facilitate, or in some cases to direct, the afforestation of private waste lands.

(4) *the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Bill*, by which it is proposed to re-enact the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act, 1887 (Bengal Act V of 1887), with amendments designed to improve the method of grouping villages for the purposes of assessment and the distribution of village-policemen, to render the assessment more equitable, and to give legal sanction to certain rules and matters of procedure which have in practice been found necessary for the proper working of the Act.

None of the three last mentioned Bills had reached the stage of introduction in the Bengal Legislative Council.

Police.

[The Reports on the Administration of the Police Departments in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Political Crime.

350. The beginning of the year in Bengal was marred by the assassination of Head Constable Sirish Chandra Chakravarti on the 21st February, followed only 10 days later by the attempted bomb outrage at Writers' Buildings. After that there was no serious political crime in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. On the other hand, in East Bengal districts, there were no less than four cases of assassination, two of the victims being Police officers who had rendered specially active and loyal assistance to Government in its efforts to suppress this form of crime; while in the remaining two cases three men, including a dafadar and his brother who had rendered service in the prosecution of a political case, and another man who had given information to the Police, were murdered in a most brutal manner. The increase in the number of dacoities in which members of the respectable classes were concerned was another most disquieting feature of the year, and crime of this nature still continues to be committed in the Dacca Division. The measures to be taken to deal with these dacoities received the special attention of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government, and are still engaging the anxious consideration of His Excellency in Council. Some allusion to the more important steps which have been and are being taken in this direction has been made in the following paragraphs.

Professional Crime.

351. Useful work was done during the year by the Criminal Investigation Department. The progress made towards the development of the Finger Print, Photographic and Criminal Intelligence Bureaus was satisfactory.

Ordinary Crime.

352. The Presidency of Bengal as now constituted contains the five most criminal Divisions of the two old Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam. During the year there was a general decrease under the more serious heads in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions as a whole; but there was a regrettable rise in the number of cases of rioting and unlawful assembly in the Presidency Division, while the large number of dacoities occurring in the

24-Parganas district was serious. There was a slight increase of minor offences in these two Divisions. In Eastern Bengal and Assam there was a substantial rise in the numbers of reported cognizable crime. This is not so much due to any increase in the criminality of the population as to the increase of supervision by Gazetted officers, the increase being most noticeable in districts where the Gazetted staff has been doubled or trebled during the year. In regard to crime under particular heads the large number of dacoities and the poor results obtained were noticeable features and special measures are in hand to check this form of crime. Rioting is very prevalent, especially in the Dacca Division, and the practice of warning landholders of their responsibilities in that respect is being extended.

General condition of the Police.

353. Strenuous efforts were made throughout the year to improve the conduct and discipline of the force. There was an immense increase in touring and the supervision of cases owing to more Gazetted officers becoming available in Eastern Bengal. The subject of charges against the Police again received special attention and under orders passed at the beginning of the year all cases involving charges of ill-treatment or torture against the Police form the subject of special reports to Government. The rules for the investigation of such cases have recently been revised so as to ensure that a prompt magisterial inquiry shall be held into all the more serious charges ; and the particulars given in the reports clearly reflect the determination of Government to have all charges against the force investigated fully and promptly, and offences, if proved, dealt with strictly : they show also the anxiety of the superior officers of police to give effect to the policy of Government.

In Bengal of 15 charges of maltreatment preferred, 7 were found to be false, in 1 it was found that no officer of the Bengal Police was involved, 2 ended in acquittal, and only 3 resulted in conviction, the remaining 2 being still pending. Only 2 of these cases occurred in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, and both were declared to be false. The remainder related to the Divisions which now constitute the Province of Bihar and Orissa. Twenty-four charges of extortion were laid and only 4 ended in conviction ; 7 of these 24 cases occurred in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions ; 3 were declared false, 1 ended in acquittal, in another the charge was reduced to one of simple assault, 1 was still pending, and only 1 ended in conviction. In Eastern Bengal and Assam 42 criminal cases for ill-treatment were instituted : 17 were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code ; 4 were declared mistake of law or fact, 2 were compromised, 3 dismissed as the complainants did not appear, and 10 ended in the acquittal or discharge of the accused concerned : thus only 6 cases were prosecuted to a conviction. As regards other charges against the Police, only 5 convictions resulted from 113 charges in Bengal ; and in Eastern Bengal and Assam out of a total of 251 charges (including those already mentioned), no less than 214 failed. Out of 16 civil suits in the latter Province, 14 were dismissed and the remaining 2 were still pending. It is obvious from the number of charges that failed entirely and were shown beyond all doubt to be deliberately false that the force is still subjected to much unnecessary harassment.

Civil Police.

354. The year was one of considerable administrative activity, and many reforms were introduced, particularly in the East Bengal districts, which it may be confidently expected will contribute materially towards the improvement of the Police administration. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year to the scheme for the reorganization of the Civil Police which had been prepared by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. By this scheme a much needed increase will be made both to the number of officers and men employed and to the number of investigating centres. The full introduction of the scheme must however be gradual. The men have to be recruited and trained, and it is unfortunately the case that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain a satisfactory class of recruits. The pay at present offered for constables is low as compared with that which labour can now command in Bengal, the work is hard, and discipline is enforced with a stronger hand than formerly. This question has already engaged attention and a special officer was deputed in Eastern Bengal and Assam to inquire into the matter. His report is now under consideration. As a temporary measure the Government of Eastern Bengal

and Assam obtained the sanction of the Government of India to offer a bonus of Rs. 6-8 to every recruit on enlistment and the privilege has recently been extended to the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. The measure has proved helpful, but it cannot be regarded as affording a complete solution of the problem. Increasing difficulty is being experienced in recruiting Muhammadans; at present they number little more than one-fourth of the entire force. The system by which Assistant or Deputy Superintendents of Police are placed in charge of important subdivisions has proved a great success. It has served not only to improve the discipline and morale of the force, but also to engender better feeling between the people and the police. Special attention was also directed to the formulation of measures to deal with the dacoities, whether committed by persons of the respectable classes or professional criminal gangs, which are unfortunately so prevalent in the river districts of Eastern Bengal. Detailed instructions were issued to chaukidars and dafadars in regard to the steps which they should take on the occurrence of a dacoity in their neighbourhood; special facilities have been granted for the despatch of telegrams by the Police in connection with the prevention and detection of crime; and steps have been taken to secure the opening of a number of extra telegraph offices in places where this form of crime is particularly rampant. Important railway and river stations have been specially policed. Arms have been supplied to outlying thanas; station and patrol boats have been freely supplied; and a still more important experiment has been tried in the direction of supplying selected panchayats and villagers in the Dacca Division with arms for their defence in case of attack by dacoits: how far this last measure will prove a success is still uncertain.

River Police.

355. The reform however which is really essential for efficient Police administration in Eastern Bengal with its vast waterways is the constitution of an effective force of River Police. The partial measures which have already been taken to control the waterways have met with distinct success, and steps are being taken to introduce as quickly as possible the River Police Scheme prepared by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to which the sanction of the Secretary of State was received during the year. Under this scheme twenty-seven thanas will be opened, and a force of 342 officers and men with thirty-six launches will be employed. Four floating thanas and seven patrol boats are now at work, and a fifth floating thana is shortly expected to be ready. Including two launches purchased last year by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in connection with the jute protection scheme there are nine launches, and arrangements have been made for the construction, at the Government Dockyard, Kidderpore, of a few launches of types recommended by experts of the Royal Indian Marine for purposes of experiment. One more Inspector and a number of Sub-Inspectors will shortly be recruited, and endeavours are being made to advance the introduction of the scheme as quickly as is possible. Difficulty in finding suitable recruits for River Police work and delay in the receipt from England of the machinery indented for in connection with the construction of launches have, however, hindered the introduction of the scheme as quickly as is desirable.

Rural Police.

356. The system of appointing selected officers of the Subordinate Civil Service to the charge of certain areas to be known as circles to supervise panchayati and chaukidari work was tried as an experimental measure in West Bengal during the last cold weather. Ten such officers were appointed under the general supervision of Mr. D. Weston, I.C.S., and the report of the latter officer on the working of the system has recently been received and is now under consideration. The general result of the experiment appears to show that in the absence of close and constant supervision the existing President system has seriously deteriorated, and in many cases requires to be completely reorganized. The increased supervision, provided by the system, has clearly had beneficial results in the direction of improved chaukidari administration, and Mr. Weston reports that the experiment has undoubtedly been successful in remedying many local grievances. It has been decided to continue it on a more extended scale and to include some of the Eastern Bengal districts within the scope of the experiment. In this portion of the Province however

the President system is in force in only three districts, and the whole question of the system of administration of the Rural Police in the eastern districts will require consideration. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Government had prepared a complete scheme for a circle system, and had proposed to make a beginning with it in three selected subdivisions. The establishment of an efficient agency in the form of President Panchayats is however a necessary preliminary to a successful introduction of the circle system, and measures will now be undertaken for the organization and proper supervision of such an agency in those districts of East Bengal which possess, in rural areas, the class of men for whom it can be constructed. It is proposed to appoint another officer on special duty to supervise the enlarged experiment in contemplation, and advise Government generally on chaukidari matters in the light of the experience gained.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Reports on the above, and measures taken in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam during 1911 for their destruction. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Wild animals.

357. The number of persons killed by wild animals fell to 431, of whom 139 were killed by tigers. Deaths caused by tigers increased in Backergunge Jalpaiguri and Noakhali, but there was a noticeable decrease in the Presidency Division from 126 to 88. A large proportion of the other deaths was due to crocodiles.

Snakes.

358. Snake-bite caused the death of 5,082 persons. There was a marked increase in the Midnapore district and Presidency Division, whereas almost all the Eastern Bengal districts showed a decrease. Fourteen cases of snake-bite were treated by Lieutenant-Colonel Roger's or Sir L. Brunton's lancets and permanganate of potash. The treatment was apparently effective in some cases, but proved to be useless in a case of supposed cobra-bite, though the ligature was applied within 3 minutes and the permanganate of potash applied within 10 minutes. No venomous snakes were sent to the Bombay Laboratory, as they have been rarely found to survive the long journey.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

359. Four thousand six hundred and forty-eight cattle are reported to have been killed by wild animals, chiefly leopards and tigers. The increase is very slight.

Destruction of wild animals.

360. The number of wild animals killed was 1,939. The largest increase occurred in the Presidency Division where the number rose from 221 to 517. Venomous snakes numbering 11,960 were killed—an increase on the previous year's figures. Almost one-half of the number was reported from the Burdwan Division, Hooghly district showing the largest increase owing to extensive rains and floods. Rewards paid totalled Rs. 12,794. Of this, Rs. 10,250 was paid in the Presidency Division against Rs. 6,598 in the preceding year, chiefly for the destruction of tigers.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1911. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Discipline and recruitment.

361. There was an increase in the number of departmental punishments for the most part amongst the rank of constables. Dismissals increased from 40 in 1910 to 81, and judicial convictions from 21 to 39. The increase appears to have been due mainly to the exercise of better check and supervision over the work of beat constables which was provided by the special deputation of seven European sergeants to look after the men employed on this duty. The number of resignations, though slightly less than in the previous year, was still very large, and the position in respect of recruitment is far from statisfactory. The arrangement under which recruits were sent for training to the constables' school at Nathnagar, in Bhagalpur district, is no longer practicable, since the school has ceased to belong to this Presidency. The Commissioner of Police has been asked to submit proposals for the

establishment of a separate and self-contained recruiting depôt and training school for the Calcutta Police in the neighbourhood of Calcutta.

Crime.

362. The number of cases both cognizable and non-cognizable was larger than in 1910. In the case of the former the increase was noticeable—the total number of true cases exceeding that of the previous year by 15,468. The increase is due largely to greater activity in dealing with cases of obstruction of the public thoroughfares to which special attention was directed in the Government resolution on last year's report. The Police have been making good use of the powers conferred on them by the Calcutta Suburban Police Amendment Act, (Act III of 1910.) As against the further increase of 112 in the number of cases of ordinary theft, there was the large increase of 146 and 53 in the number of convictions for this offence and for the offence of receiving stolen property, respectively. The increase in burglaries came wholly from the suburbs, where the beat system was extended into a third division during the year.

The work of the Courts was heavier than in the previous year. Honorary Magistrates disposed of about one-ninth of the serious cases, or 5·8 per cent. of the total number of cases of all descriptions disposed of during the year, a number slightly less than in the previous year. The accommodation available in the Calcutta Police Court building is quite inadequate. Government is considering a proposal for the removal of the Police Courts to No. 3, Charnock Place, at present occupied by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division and other officers. The additional space which will be available at No. 3, Charnock Place will allow of the provision of suitable court-rooms for the use of Honorary Magistrates, who, in the absence of sufficient and suitable accommodation, cannot furnish the relief to stipendiary Magistrates which they are able and willing to give. Even in existing conditions, however, many of the Honorary Magistrates have rendered much assistance.

Juvenile offenders.

363. Effective measures were taken during the year to secure juvenile offenders before and after conviction from contact with habitual criminals. One hundred and four first offenders were discharged under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, and, of the juveniles convicted, 38 were sent to a reformatory school as against 26 in the previous year, while 16 were discharged after admission, 12 bound down to be of good behaviour, 271 whipped and only 11 sentenced to imprisonment in the juvenile jail. The action of the Police and the Courts now proceeds on lines which are in reasonable accord with modern ideas as to the treatment and reformation of juvenile offenders

Fire Brigade.

364. There was a satisfactory improvement in the efficiency of the Fire Brigade in consequence of its reorganization, which was based on the recommendation of the Committee which sat during the year. A European Superintendent has been obtained from England since the close of the year 1911. The use of motor-engines has added greatly to the utility of the Brigade in dealing promptly with outbreaks, and there was a most satisfactory decrease in the amount of property destroyed by fire.

Criminal Justice.

[Reports on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Bengal (including Bihar and Orissa) and Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911. Statistics of British India—Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

365. For sessions work in Bengal the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and one Additional Sessions Judge. Four Subordinate Judges in five districts were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. Temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of Bankura, Hooghly and the 24-Parganas.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 427 stipendiary and 956 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 23 and a decrease of 33, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Of the 427 stipendiary magistrates, 257 exercised first, 117 second and 53 third class powers. There were 145 benches of magistrates constituted from among 895 Honorary

Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal. Of the total, 133 were independent, and 12 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Thirteen Sessions Judges and three Additional Sessions Judges were employed in the Eastern Bengal districts, and two Additional Sessions Judgeships were sanctioned during the year. Additional Sessions Judges were employed temporarily for short periods in Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Pabna-Bogra. Three Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge were employed at Dacca, Tippera and Bogra.

The magisterial staff of the late province at the close of the year consisted of 235 stipendiary and 282 Honorary Magistrates, an increase and a decrease of 10, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Among the latter were nine special magistrates appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of the 235 stipendiary magistrates, 169 exercised first, 44 second and 22 third class powers. Fifty-five benches of magistrates, all independent, were constituted from among the 282 Honorary Magistrates employed during the year.

Offences reported.

366. There were 413,451 criminal offences reported in Bengal and Eastern Bengal during the year, an increase of 24,269 on the figures of 1910. Of the total, 260,033 were under the Indian Penal Code and 153,418 under special and local laws. These totals are more by 6,868 and 17,401, respectively, than those of 1910.

False cases.

367. In Bengal the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 43,719, or 16·1 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for the preceding year was 17·2. Complaints were dismissed in 38,705 cases, or 342 more than in 1910. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,014, or 407 less than in 1910.

In the Eastern Bengal districts the number of cases which were found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 48,834, or 34·1 per cent. of the number reported. The percentage for 1910 was 35·5. Complaints were dismissed in 44,370 cases, or 463 more than in 1910. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 441 more than in 1910.

True cases.

368. In Bengal, of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 226,847 were found to be true, and of these 192,036 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 10,089 cases. Compared with 1910 the number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial shows an increase of 16,361 and 15,927, respectively.

In the Eastern Bengal districts, of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 92,313 were found to be true, and of these 65,382 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 12,037 cases. The number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial shows an increase of 6,683 and 3,914, respectively, on the figures of 1910.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

369. Of the total number of cases brought to trial in Bengal, 71,894 were in the courts of the Police and Municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 120,142 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

370. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrates, was more by 11,726 than in 1910. The number of cases under the Penal Code fell from 13,631 to 12,811, while cases under special and local laws rose from 46,537 to 59,083. A noticeable increase under special and local laws was in offences under the Police Act (8,958), due to the working of the new Police Act III of 1910, which gives the police larger powers in respect of nuisances. Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 53,793 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 50,680 were before stipendiary magistrates, 3,073 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly and 40 before benches. In 1910 the

same officers disposed of 43,479 cases, of which 41,259 were before stipendiary magistrates, 2,131 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 89 before benches. Ninety-nine cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 83 were committed to the High Court and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 1,447 under ordinary and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates rose from 14,317 to 15,919. The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 18,135, of which 14,916 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 18,135, of which 17,044 were decided under the summary procedure and 2 cases remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1910, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 1,503 and 1,514, respectively.

Results of trials.

371. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 59,279. Of the persons tried, 4,774 were acquitted or discharged, 54,208 were convicted, 6 persons died, 108 were committed to the sessions and 183 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 1,251 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 10,783 were convicted and 3,697 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Stipendiary magistrates ...	4,320	51,480	90·2
Benches of „ ...	26	19	42·2
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly.	428	2,709	86·2

Of the persons convicted, 1,656 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, 95 were punished with simple imprisonment, 50,019 with fine and 231 with whipping. Seven of the sentences of whipping were not in accordance with the law as altered by the Whipping Act of 1909. Thirty-one sentences of imprisonment were in the case of youthful offenders commuted to detention in a reformatory school. One thousand six hundred and eighty-nine convicted persons were warned and discharged. In addition to these sentences, 385 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 365 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year, 69 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace, and 62 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows an increase of 243 as compared with 1910. Before the Municipal Magistrate 20,453 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 19,513 were convicted, 936 were acquitted or discharged, two died and two remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 5,252, or 1,458 less than in 1910. The percentage of conviction was 95·4. Of the persons convicted, 13,988 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

(B) Magistrates outside Calcutta : Cases for trial.

372. At the opening of the year 6,720 cases were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 185,577 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial and 185,080 were disposed of, 7,103 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were more than in 1910 by 8,082. There was a considerable increase in cases under special and local laws. An increase in number of cases instituted is reported from 34 and a decrease from 19 districts. The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	1,382	496
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ...	109,399	40,774
Honorary Magistrates	16,391	908
Benches of magistrates	8,629	6,898
Special magistrates	107	...

District and subdivisional magistrates decided 96 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The number of cases decided during the year was more than the number decided in 1910 by 8,100. The increase occurred chiefly in the courts of subordinate stipendiary magistrates and special magistrates.

Results of trials.

373. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 1,918 were committed or referred to the sessions and 183,162 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 266,551 persons were accused, this number being 10,903 more than that of 1910. Of the total, 138,447 persons were convicted, and 128,104 were acquitted or discharged. Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 65,598 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 58,643 were convicted and 103,632 were acquitted or discharged. The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1911 was 13,432 as compared with 13,299 in 1910. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 842 against 1,038 at the close of 1910. The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.	
Benches of magistrates ...	4,558	10,259	69·2	Bengal.
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates.	59,332	76,252	56·2	Bengal.
Honorary Magistrates ...	7,821	9,052	53·6	Bengal.
Special „ ...	48	230	82·7	Bengal.
District „ ...	450	294	39·5	Bengal.
Benches of „ ...	2,719	2,061	43·1	Eastern Bengal.
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates.	47,820	36,848	43·5	Eastern Bengal.
Honorary Magistrates ...	3,875	2,556	39·7	Eastern Bengal.
Special „ ...	71	12	14·4	Eastern Bengal.
District „ ...	1,410	883	38·5	Eastern Bengal.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	65,296	22,438
On summary trial	5,828	44,885

Punishments.

374. The sentences passed on persons convicted in Bengal and Eastern Bengal, were as follows :—

Transportation for a term of years ...	...	3
Imprisonment ...	rigorous ...	... 25,255
	simple	... 1,127
Fine	with imprisonment	... 4,147
	without imprisonment	... 100,848
Whipping ...	sole punishment ...	... 770
	additional punishment	... 25

A term of solitary confinement was included in 308 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 69 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand eight hundred and ten persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,541 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Five hundred and sixty-eight persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released proceedings were subsequently taken in 90 cases, involving 103 persons, 102 of whom were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 7,692 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 4,050 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,806 were

for terms not exceeding 15 days, 17,609 for terms not exceeding six months, 7,350 for terms not exceeding two years, and 89 for terms exceeding two years. Of the sentences of whipping, 27 were not in accordance with the law as altered by Act IV of 1909. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 9,73,672. During the year Rs. 8,66,528 were realized and Rs. 1,31,388 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realized.

Miscellaneous proceedings. Code of Criminal Procedure: Chapter VIII.

375. There were 3,404 proceedings under chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 15,379 persons were involved. The cases and the persons involved therein were more numerous in Bengal and less in Eastern Bengal than in 1910. Of the persons concerned, 5,476 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace. In 2,318 cases, 5,411 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 4,140 of them. Of these, 3,862 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 321 after reference to the court of session under section 123 of the Code and 3,541 under orders of magistrates, for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

376. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under chapter X of the Code were taken in 1,499 cases, and in the cases of 370 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, was 2,577, a decrease of 628 on the figures for 1910. Under section 250 of the Code 1,111 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, their accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 1,183 persons, and orders were made absolute against 370.

Witnesses.

377. In Bengal the number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 296,623 as compared with 310,101 in 1910. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 100,346, or 25·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 25·6. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 78,005 in 1910 to Rs. 75,323 in 1911. Of the total number in attendance, 313,373 (78·8 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 62.751 (15·7 per cent.) on the second, 16,001 (4·3 per cent.) on the third and 4,844 (1·2 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 759 less than in 1910.

In the Eastern Bengal districts the number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates was 240,907 as compared with 238,941 in 1910. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 109,981, or 31·3 per cent. of the whole number. The amount paid to witnesses rose from Rs. 87,275 in 1910 to Rs. 87,610 in 1911. Of the total number in attendance, 249,149 (71 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 71,988 (20·5 per cent.) on the second, 22,606 (6·5 per cent.) on the third and 7,145 (2 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 356 more than the number so detained in 1910.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

378. In Bengal and Eastern Bengal the number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,918, or 62 less than in 1910; and the number decided, inclusive of the pending cases of the previous year, was 1,933, or 33 less than in 1910. There were 243 cases pending at the close of the year. The number of commitments was largest in Mymensingh (176) and Backergunge (120).

Results of trials.

379. There were 4,945 persons, or 243 more than in 1910, under trial before courts of session during the year. The cases of 4,321 persons were decided, and 605 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 4,321 persons tried, 2,523 were convicted and 1,675 were acquitted or discharged. and the cases of 114 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

380. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session during the year :—

Death		42
Transportation ...	for life	159
	for a term of years ...	112
Imprisonment ...	rigorous	1,871
	simple	16
Fine		118
Whipping		13

In the case of 22 out of the 978 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of two youthful offenders the sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Fifty-three of the sentences of fine and two of whipping were additional punishments. Besides the above, 227 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (22 for terms not exceeding one year and 205 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding	15 days	10
	6 months	167
	2 years	529
	7 „	1,281
Exceeding	7 „	117

Fines to the amount of Rs. 13,435 were imposed by courts of session as compared with Rs. 11,756 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 4,788 as compared with Rs. 4,214 in 1910. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 1,486.

Jury trials.

381. The number of persons tried by jury during 1911 was 1,371, and of the persons so tried the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 1,111 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 260. In the case of 72 persons the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict and referred the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Trials with the aid of assessors.

382. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors during the year under review was 2,337 with the result that in the case of 1,597 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the case of 294 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the case of 446 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors.

Duration of cases.

383. In Bengal the average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 41·5 days in 1910 to 44·2 days in 1911. In the Eastern Bengal districts the average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was 42 days as compared with 37·6 days in 1910. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Dacca (68·3 days, partly due to the prolonged trial of a conspiracy case), Cachar (66 days), Rajshahi (55·4 days) and Faridpur (54·3 days).

Witnesses.

384. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 33,976. Of these, 21,163 were examined and 12,813 discharged without examination. In Bengal of the total number in attendance, 6,921 (46·3 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 4,057 (27·2 per cent.) on the second day, 2,031 (31·5 per cent.) on the third day and 1,949 (13 per cent.) after the third day. In Eastern Bengal 7,923 (41·7 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 5,756 (30·3 per cent.) on the second day, 2,945 (15·4 per cent.) on the third day and 2,394 (12·6 per cent.) after the third day. The results show an improvement as compared with those of the preceding year. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 82,430 as compared with Rs. 69,712 in 1910.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

385. Two cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 85 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 71,

including the case of a European British subject committed from Darjeeling, were tried during the year, and 16 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 96 persons were tried, of whom 84 were convicted and 12 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 388, and the average duration of cases from commitment 28·8 days against 41·3 days in 1910.

III.—High Court, Special Bench.

Results of cases.

386. Three cases committed from Khulna, Howrah and the 24-Parganas, involving 16, 46 and 6 persons, respectively, were pending from the previous year for trial by special benches under Act XIV of 1908. Two persons in the first case, who had absconded, were committed during the year. In the Khulna case 17 persons pleaded guilty and were released on signing bonds to appear and receive sentence when called upon by the court, and in the meantime to keep the peace and be of good behaviour. The Advocate-General entered a *nolle prosequi* against the remaining accused, who was acquitted. In the Howrah case six persons were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for terms not exceeding two years, and 38 persons were acquitted. The case of one person, who was of unsound mind, was struck off the file, and one person died. In the 24-Parganas case one person was insane, and his case was struck off the file, and the remaining five persons were acquitted, the prosecution having offered no evidence. Three hundred and sixteen witnesses were examined in those cases, and the average duration of each case from the date of commitment was 192 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

387. At the opening of 1911 there were 83 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts in Bengal and Eastern Bengal. During the year 1,041 appeals were preferred and 1,003 were decided. Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 889 were from courts of session, 138 were from Presidency Magistrates and 10 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers. Four appeals were preferred by the Local Governments against orders of acquittal.

Result of appeals.

388. Eight hundred and fifty-two appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided during the year. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 640 instances, reversed in 71 and modified in 129. Ten cases were remanded for re-trial, and the proceedings were quashed in two. One hundred and thirty-nine appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 134 cases and modified in four. The proceedings in one case were quashed. Seven appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year; the orders were confirmed in five cases and modified in two. The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 1,086 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals sentences on 213 appellants were confirmed, on 189 reduced or altered, on 183 annulled and on one enhanced. In the case of 29 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and in the case of two the proceedings were quashed.

Appeals against acquittals.

389. Four appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. Of these, three were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges. In one case the order of acquittal was reversed and the accused person was convicted of the offence of murder and sentenced to transportation for life. In the second case the High Court declined to interfere with the order of acquittal passed on appeal. The remaining case related to an order of a Presidency Magistrate acquitting five persons charged with the offence of theft. The High Court convicted and sentenced three persons to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment, and upheld the order of acquittal in respect of the remaining two persons.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions courts.

390. There were 270 appeals pending before the courts of session in Bengal at the opening of the year. During the year 5,864 appeals were preferred, 5,880 were decided and 247 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 61 more than in 1910. In the appeals decided during 1911, 10,077 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,869 of these were summarily dismissed, 3,667 appellants whose appeals were admitted were altogether unsuccessful, 1,577 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence and 1,732 were acquitted; in the cases of 230 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The cases of two persons were referred to the High Court. If admitted appeals only are considered, the results of appeals were on the whole less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' courts.

391. In the courts of magistrates in Bengal 294 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year 6,036 appeals were preferred, 5,983 were decided and 341 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was more than in 1910 by 31. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 10,459. Of these, the appeals of 2,349 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 4,308, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 6,657 wholly unsuccessful appellants. Of the remainder, 1,194 appellants obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 2,509 their total annulment. In the case of 99 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The results in Bengal were slightly more favourable and in Eastern Bengal less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

392. Seven references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries in Bengal were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 40 were made during the year. Forty-three of these references were decided during the year and four remained undecided at its close. The result of the 43 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in thirteen cases, set aside in 28 and modified in one. One case was remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

393. Thirty-five references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences in Bengal were made to the High Court during 1911, and eight were pending before the court at the opening of the year. Forty-one were decided during the year, in which 48 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 15 was confirmed, and in the case of 14 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of two persons a sentence of seven years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted, the accused being convicted of a minor offence. Fifteen persons were acquitted, and the cases of the remaining two persons were remanded for re-trial.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

394. The cases of four persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court. All the cases were disposed of during the year. The convictions were approved and sentences were passed upon the accused persons in two cases. In one case the accused, convicted of an offence under section 457, Indian Penal Code, having been in custody for two months, was discharged without further punishment. In one case the accused was acquitted.

Revision.

395. During the year 276 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 19 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 274 were decided and 21 remained pending. The number reported was 33 less than in 1910. In 146 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 38 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 31 cases and enhanced in 11. In the remaining 48 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure orders were passed in 1,596 cases, a decrease of six on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,595 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and one was taken up on review of a sessions statement. Of the applications for the issue of rules 824 were rejected. Of 771 rules issued, 222 were finally discharged, 281 were made absolute in their entirety, the orders complained of were modified in 154 cases and quashed in 21 and in 93 cases a new trial was ordered. In the case taken up by the High Court on review of a sessions statement the order passed by the lower court was not disturbed.

Applications for transfer

396. One hundred and thirty applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases from one court or district to another were on the files; 121 of them were disposed of and nine remained pending at the close of the year. Fifty-eight were summarily rejected, and in 24 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 39 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 18 and refused in 21 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions courts.

397. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 10,060 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was more than in 1910 by 1,635. The applications of 4,349 persons were rejected, and as regards 2,430 the orders of the lower court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 49 persons were reversed, in 18 instances proceedings were quashed, and the order of the lower court was modified in the cases of 61 persons. The cases of 542 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,611 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' courts.

398. The cases of 4,646 accused persons who applied for revision or against whom applications were made by complainants came before district magistrates for revision. The number was less by 910 than in 1910. Of the total, the applications of 1,509 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 1,429 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 107 persons were modified, and those affecting 423 were reversed. In the cases of 36 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 1,058 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 84 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

399. The cases of 83 European British subjects were decided during the year as against 95 in the previous year. Of these, 82 were dealt with by magistrates and one by the High Court. Of the accused persons none claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of by magistrates, 36 persons were convicted and 46 acquitted. The convictions were in 18 cases for offences under special and local laws, in 11 cases for offences affecting the human body, in three cases for offences against property, in two cases for offences affecting the public health, safety, convenience, etc., in one case for criminal intimidation, insult or annoyance; and in one case for an offence by or relating to a public servant. The person tried by the High Court was committed from the district of Darjeeling for trial for the offence of criminal breach of trust, and was convicted.

Results of criminal work.

400. In Bengal during 1911 there was a considerable increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases decided by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. There was a decrease in appellate and revisional work disposed of by magistrates. In the courts of session there was a decrease of original work, but an increase of both appellate and revisional work. In the High Court a decrease of appellate work and an increase of revisional work are noticeable. Fifty-two persons (45 in Howrah and 7 in the 24-Parganas) against 85 in the previous year

were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, seven were convicted, 44 were acquitted or discharged and one died.

In the courts of magistrates in the Eastern Bengal districts there was a considerable increase, as compared with 1910, in the number of original cases disposed of. There was also a slight increase of appellate and a noticeable decrease of revisional work. In the courts of session there was an increase in all classes of criminal work. In the High Court a slight decrease of both appellate and revisional work is noticeable. Forty-six persons against 48 in 1910 were under trial for offences against the State, viz., 44 in Dacca and 2 in Pabna. Of these, 37 were convicted and nine were acquitted or discharged. The 44 persons at Dacca were concerned in the conspiracy case noticed in paragraph 31 of the Court's Report for 1910. The case was disposed of during the year, with the result that eight persons were acquitted and 36 convicted. The appeal preferred to the High Court against this judgment was pending at the end of the year.

Receipts and charges.

401. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice in Bengal a portion of the salaries of judicial officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 24,85,150. Of this amount, Rs. 14,97,104 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,24,122 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 71,326 for process-servers, Rs. 3,78,874 for other establishments and Rs. 4,13,724 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 13,45,253. Of this amount, Rs. 6,35,827 were under fines, Rs. 1,34,597 under process fees, Rs. 1,53,328 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 3,18,271 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 1,03,230 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges were less than those of 1910 by over nineteen thousand and one lakh and seventy-thousand rupees, respectively.

In the Eastern Bengal districts the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 16,15,576; of this amount, Rs. 9,00,337 were for the salaries of the judicial officers, Rs. 75,757 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 47,401 for process-servers, Rs. 2,76,699 for other establishments and Rs. 3,15,382 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 8,75,866. Of this amount, Rs. 3,44,461 were under fines, Rs. 1,21,300 under process fees, Rs. 97,360 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 2,52,910 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 59,835 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and the charges exceeded those of 1910 by over three hundred rupees and sixty-two thousand and seven hundred rupees, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

402. The number of cases brought to trial during 1911 in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 113. The total number of cases disposed of was 90. The number of witnesses examined was 277. The total number of persons under trial, including those who had been awaiting trial from the preceding year, was 231, of whom 108 were acquitted or discharged and 87 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 6 were for criminal force and assault, 8 for theft, 8 for criminal trespass and 19 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 23, of whom ten were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The Reports on the Administration of the Jail Department in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1911. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Jail population.

403. One of the chief features of the year in Bengal from the administrative point of view was the further decrease in the daily average jail population. The best returns were shown by the jails of the Presidency and Burdwan

Divisions. The average daily number of prisoners of all classes in these divisions fell from 14,802 to 14,124. The number of convicts remaining at the close of the year and their average daily number were 10,050 and 12,447, respectively, against 12,504 and 13,163 in 1910. The decrease was principally due to the release of 2,404 convicts who received special remissions on the 12th December 1911, the date of the Coronation Durbar at Delhi.

The new Presidency Jail at Kalighat is now ready, and a large number of the convicts from the old Presidency Jail have already been transferred to it. While the opening of the new jail will provide increased accommodation for 99 prisoners only, the proposed new Central Jail at Monghyr, which was intended to relieve overcrowding in Bengal Central Jails generally, falls outside the limits of Bengal as now constituted. The figures quoted in paragraph 4 of the Bengal Report would indicate that there is spare accommodation for over 1,500 prisoners in the jails of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, but it has to be borne in mind that a considerable portion of this spare accommodation cannot be utilized. Surplus accommodation in female or under-trial wards, for instance, or in hospitals can only be used for the class of prisoners for whom it is intended. It is probable that for the present, the overcrowding which has prevailed in Eastern Bengal jails may be avoided by redistribution of the surplus population into the Western Divisions.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

404. Another feature of the year in Bengal was the remarkably low death-rate. The death-rate for the year was only 17·9 per mille, which nearly equals the record for the year 1907, when the rate was 17·5. Indeed, the remarkable fall in the death-rate from 65 per mille, the rate for the quinquennium 1875-79 to its present low figure, is one of the most gratifying features of the Jail Administration in Bengal in recent times. The statistics of sickness and mortality in the jails of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as in the previous year, are a matter of some concern. The rate of sickness of all classes was higher than it has been in any year since 1906, and though the death-rate was slightly less than in 1910, it still reached the high figure of 31·70 per mille. The high rate is largely due to the unfortunate unhealthiness of the jails in Assam. Even, however, if due consideration is given to this point, the death-rate in Eastern Bengal jails was as high as 24·37, and it is obvious that there is much room for improvement. The unhealthiness of the jails in Eastern Bengal and Assam was doubtless due partly, as in former years, to overcrowding, and it will therefore be necessary to consider carefully whether the accommodation available in the jails of the Presidency as now constituted is sufficient.

Jail manufactures.

405. The present position of affairs in regard to jail manufactures cannot but be regarded as unsatisfactory, and the Inspector-General of Prisons is anxious that the orders laid down in the Home Department Resolution No. 10—605-18, dated the 7th May 1886, under which the public consuming departments were compelled to take articles of jail manufacture, provided that they could be supplied by the jails, of suitable quality and at suitable prices, should be reaffirmed and enforced. He observes that the Army Department has practically ceased to place orders with the Jail Department. Though the large consuming departments of the Government of India have been asked to place orders, when possible, with the Jail Department, it is the desire of the Government of India that jail manufactures should, so far as possible, be provincialised. It is feared, however, that the provincial consuming departments will be unable to provide the jails with sufficient employment, and that the jail receipts will undergo considerable diminution.

Juvenile prisoners.

406. Much has been done to secure the segregation of such prisoners and to accord them special treatment when in jail. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore will be available for the accommodation of young prisoners from the East Bengal divisions, and it will be unnecessary now to carry out the enlargement of the Bogra Jail which had been intended by the late Eastern Bengal and Assam Government to be set aside as a special place of confinement for juveniles. At the same time youthful offenders, particularly in Calcutta, are too often sent to jail for short periods. Instructions were issued during the year in Calcutta, under which all juvenile under-trials are kept separate

from other persons in custody and are tried by one of the Presidency Magistrates only. The question of the constitution of a separate Children's Court for Calcutta in which a special Magistrate or Magistrates should hear cases in which juveniles are concerned, in a building entirely separate from the Police Courts, is still under the consideration of a Committee presided over by the Commissioner of Police. In districts outside Calcutta attention will again be drawn to the necessity of according special treatment to juvenile prisoners.

Assistance to prisoners after release.

407. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society continued its useful work during the year. The Government of Bengal is considering how far the rules in force in the Presidency are liberal enough in respect of the payment of convict warders, and how far existing arrangements enable an indigent prisoner on release to go back to his house and to look round and find employment.

Warders.

408. Partial effect has been given to two of the proposals referred to in the Bengal Administration Report for the year 1910-1911 for the improvement of the warder service. The number of paid warders employed in the three Central Jails at the Presidency, Alipore and Midnapore has lately been increased, and the number of unqualified convict warders proportionately decreased. The system of maintaining a circle reserve of warders has also been continued as an experimental measure. The Inspector-General of Prisons is reconsidering the matter in the light of the altered conditions of the Presidency.

Subsidiary Jails.

409. The existing system is unsatisfactory, chiefly because it fails to provide sub-jails generally with any whole-time officers excepting the guards, and the result is that not infrequently the internal administration of sub-jails is practically left in the hands of an illiterate and often old and inefficient head-warder. A scheme to improve the management of subsidiary jails was prepared by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam and submitted for the approval of the Government of India, under which a new grade of officers to be called sub-jailors was to be placed in charge of all sub-jails. The Government of India, however, preferred to defer a decision in the matter in view of the administrative changes then impending.

Civil Justice.

[Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice in Bengal (including the territories now comprised in the Province of Bihar and Orissa) and in Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Jurisdiction.

410. The area of the province within the jurisdiction of the High Court was the same as in previous years.

Judicial staff.

411. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in Bengal during 1911 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, one Additional District Judge, a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 36 Subordinate Judges and 170 Munsifs. In addition, eight executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and seven the powers of a Munsif. In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments were sanctioned during the year :—The appointment of a second Additional District Judge for land acquisition work in the 24-Parganas was continued. Temporary Additional District Judges were employed in Hooghly and the 24-Parganas. A temporary additional Munsif was employed at Khulna and another at Ghatal for short periods.

The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Eastern Bengal districts during the year under report consisted of 13 District and Sessions Judges, five Additional District and Sessions Judges, two additional judgeships having been sanctioned during the year, 24 Subordinate Judges, including a provincial Small Cause Court Judge who exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge, and 143 Munsifs. In addition, seven executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge and 21 the powers of a Munsif.

One of the executive officers at Alipur, in the district of Dinajpur, was vested with the powers of a Munsif under that Act. Additional District and Sessions Judges were employed temporarily for short periods in Dacca, Mymensingh, Dinajpur and Pabna-Bogra. A temporary Additional Subordinate Judge was employed at Chittagong and another at Rajshahi for a part of the year. Temporary Additional Munsifs were employed at Narayanganj throughout the year, and at eight other places for a portion of the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

412. The number of civil suits pending on the original side of the High Court at the end of 1910 was 1,361, including 25 pending suits received by transfer from other courts ; and the number instituted during 1911 was 1,277, including 17 suits received by transfer from other courts and 2 remanded for re-trial during the year, making a total of 2,638 for disposal in 1911. Of the suits instituted during 1911, 842 were for money or moveable property, 114 were mortgage suits and 36 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 79,72,332-8 as compared with Rs. 74,65,045-0-5 in the previous year.

Original suits decided.

413. The number of suits decided in 1911 was 795, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,843. The number of suits under trial was 482 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 882 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 391 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided, 101 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 5 were withdrawn with leave, 16 were determined by compromise, 74 were decreed on confession, 320 were decreed *ex parte*, 12 were dismissed *ex parte*, 14 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 179 were decreed after contest and 74 were dismissed after contest.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

414. At the commencement of the year, 11 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction and two suits were transferred to it during the year. Three of them were disposed of during the year and ten remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

415. There were disposed of during the year 381 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 5,231 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.). Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications and for summonses to witnesses were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The number of such applications was 2,955. The remaining applications (2,276) were disposed of by the Court or a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

416. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year was 169. Fresh references were directed by the court in 288 cases. Of the total number of references, 282 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Proclamations under Order XXI, rule 66.

417 During the year the Registrar settled the proclamation of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in one case only, in which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. The rest of the proclamations were settled by the Master. The Registrar also settled 27 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 62 cases under the Civil Procedure Code. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 135 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

418. The number of appeals from the original to the appellate side of the court pending at the commencement of 1911 was 44, and 70 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, nine were dismissed for default and 54 were decided; the decrees of the court of first instance were affirmed in 35 cases, modified in six and reversed in 11. Two cases were remanded for re-trial. Fifty-one appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, none of which had been pending for more than two years.

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

419. Twelve cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 17 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that court. All the applications were granted. Of the 29 cases for disposal, two were decreed, one was dismissed after trial, and one was settled in court. The remaining 25 cases were pending at the close of the year. Eighteen applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 25 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, eight applications were refused, in 12 cases the rules issued were discharged, and in three cases the records were called for and the High Court directed re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Twenty cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

420. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 222 and 188 respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 274. Of the 684 cases for disposal, 42 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded, or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed, in 12 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 30. Of the 42 cases disposed of, 22 were under the repealed Indian Insolvency Act, 1848 (11 & 12 Vict., c. 21), and of the persons who sought relief in these cases, 13 were traders within the meaning of section 9 of that Act, seven were private persons, and two were persons employed in public and other offices.

Duration of sittings.

421. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 10 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 33 days and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 152 days. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one Judge for 14 days. Appeals from the original side occupied a bench of two Judges for 63 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

422. Seven appeals from the original side were pending from the previous year, and two were admitted during the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

423. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the original side during 1911 were 7,54,186-15-4 and Rs. 4,55,191-0-2 respectively.

Taxing office.

424. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows :—

Between party and party	...	...	814
„ attorney and client	...	...	434

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 20,791.

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

425. The number of suits instituted in Bengal and Eastern Bengal in 1911 was 852,179, an increase of 7,025 on the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred in rent and title suits to the extent of 3·3 and 3·1 per cent., respectively, while there was a decrease of 1·5 per cent. in the institutions of suits for money or moveables in Bengal. There was an increase of 5·8 per cent. in rent suits, and a decrease of 10·4 per cent. in title and other suits and of 1·8 per cent. in suits for money or moveables, in Eastern Bengal. The total value of suits instituted in 1911 amounted to Rs. 11,44,62,679.

Local distribution.

426. The number of suits instituted in Bengal in 1911 was greater than the number instituted in 1910 in twelve districts. The increase was most marked in Khulna and Birbhum, and occurred chiefly in rent suits. The increase is due partly to the survey and settlement proceedings. The reclamation of the Sundarbans is reported to account for the increase of

rent litigation in Khulna. On the other hand there was a notable decrease in institutions in the 24-Parganas and Jessore. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of the 24-Parganas (42,968). The number of money suits (18,634) in this district was the largest in the province. In no other district did the suits instituted during the year reach 40,000.

The increase in the number of suits instituted in the Eastern Bengal districts was spread over eight disricts, while the decrease was confined to five districts. Mymensingh, with 55,369 suits, occupies the first place in respect of the number of institutions. Dacca (51,198) is the only other district with over 50,000.

Nature of suits instituted.

427. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show :—

	Suits for money and moveables.		Suits under the rent law.		Title and other suits.	
	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.
Rs.						
Not exceeding 10	14,485	11,286	60,846	42,580	3,024	2,987
Not exceeding 50	72,423	93,279	106,352	88,100	11,906	12,765
Not exceeding 100	30,859	55,085	30,607	26,263	8,270	7,037
Not exceeding 500	29,907	52,043	21,317	16,165	18,192	13,943
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.	3,749	3,392	2,411	1,003	7,654	4,249
Total ...	151,423	215,085	221,533	174,111	49,046	40,981

In Bengal in suits for money or moveables 57·4 per cent., and in rent suits 75·4 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 99·5 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 39·3 per cent. were mortgage suits, 45·7 suits for immoveable property and 4·9 suits for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value more than one-half of the total litigation of the province. All the 37 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, were title suits.

Of the suits in Eastern Bengal under the rent law, 99·1 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 32·7 per cent. were mortgage suits, 47·8 for immoveable property and 11·7 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value 35·2 per cent. of the total litigation in the province. Seven suits instituted during the year were valued at over a lakh of rupees each ; all were title suits.

Number and results of suits decided.

428. In addition to the 422,002 suits instituted in Bengal during the year and the 114,900 suits pending trial from the previous year, 7,677 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, during the year, making a total for disposal of 544,579. The number of suits disposed of was 420,748, showing an increase of 25,888 on the figures of 1910. Of the total disposed of, 396,016 were disposed of by Munsifs, 12,969 by Subordinate Judges, 11,358 by Small Cause Court Judges and 405 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease of disposals in the courts of Small Cause Court Judges and District and Additional Judges. In the suits disposed of during the year plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 82,623 cases, or 19·6 per cent., of which 58,158 were dismissed for default ; in 72,683 cases, or 17·3 per cent., a compromise was effected ; and plaintiffs were successful in 265,442 cases, or 63·1 per cent. The results show little variation from those of the preceding year. Of the 68,718 suits decided on contest, 55,822, or 81·3 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 12,896, or 18·7 per cent., in favour of defendants.

The number of suits instituted in the Eastern Bengal districts during the year, added to the number pending at its commencement and to the number revived or received on remand or review during the year, gave a total number of 536,664 suits for disposal, an increase of 15,853 over the figures of the previous year. The number disposed of was 429,281. This represents an increase of 8,035 over the figures of 1910. The increase occurred in both contested and uncontested suits, the former rising from 80,599 to 81,337 and the latter from 340,647 to 347,944. Of the total number of suits decided, 409,564 were disposed of by Munsifs, 11,090 by Subordinate Judges, 8,466 by Small Cause Court Judges and 161 by District and Additional District Judges. The disposals rose by 5,886 in the courts of Munsifs, and by 2,191 in the courts of Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges. There was a decrease of 42 in disposals by District and Additional District Judges. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 86,526 cases, or 20·1 per cent., of which 65,441 were dismissed for default; they were successful in 306,853 cases, or 71·5 per cent.; and in 35,902, or 8·4 per cent., a compromise was effected. The proportions show no variation, as compared with the previous year. Of the 81,337 suits decided in contest, 69,301, or 85·2 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 12,036, or 14·8 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for re-trial.

429. In Bengal the percentage of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was six, the numbers being 15,837 and 260,054 respectively. In Eastern Bengal the figures were 4·1 per cent. 12,281 and 295,760 respectively. The applications were successful in as many as 6,690 cases, or 42·2 per cent. in Bengal and in 6,060 cases or 49·2 per cent. in Eastern Bengal.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

430. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs in Bengal and Eastern Bengal shows an increase of 31,783 on the figures of 1910. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year in Bengal was 2,237. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 24·7 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1911 was 61,930, or 15·6 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif, was 349. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs the percentage of those contested was 16·6, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 12·5. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 26,762 as compared with 1910. The results for Eastern Bengal are similar and show no great variations as compared with the previous year's figures.

Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

431. The number of original suits disposed of in Bengal by Subordinate Judges in 1911 was 24,059, an increase of 1,886 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided under the Small Cause Court procedure, and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,816 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 17,243. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure increased as compared with the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 19,824 original suits, of which 3,858 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

432. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts in Bengal and Eastern Bengal is given in the following statement :—

		District Judges.		Subordinate Judges.		Munsifs.		Small Cause Court Judges	
		Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure ...	Contested ...	195	186	352	401	182	192	...	...
	Uncontested ...	171	168	194	197	98	99	...	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	...	75	75	67	69	59	96
	Uncontested ...	...	...	48	52	44	52	41	63

The results show an appreciable improvement in the duration of both contested and uncontested suits decided under the ordinary procedure by District Judges and Subordinate Judges. There was an increase in the duration of cases tried by Munsifs. The Small Cause Court figures show a slight improvement as compared with the preceding year.

Pending suits.

433. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 232,013 as against 214,503 in the previous year. The increase in the pending file is mainly due to the rise in the number of institutions during the year ; it is also a sign that the courts are under-staffed. Of the pending cases, 6,269 had been pending for more than a year, 44,283 for more than six months and 75,113 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the long pending arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 4,953 were in the courts of Munsifs, and 1,316 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Noakhali (2,118). Additional assistance was given after the close of the year to those districts where the arrears were too heavy for the normal staff. The increase in the number of long-pending suits in Noakhali is considerable, but the High Court observe that the greater number of these suits were awaiting the disposal of certain cases in the High Court.

Execution proceedings.

434. In Bengal there were 130,232 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 166,535 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 116,563 cases and partial in 558,478. In 258,832 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 134,526 remained pending at the close of the year. The proportion of infructuous proceedings in execution of decrees was, as in former years, highest in Dacca (84 per cent). The next highest percentages were in Faridpur (70·4) and Tippera (60·6).

The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,46,41,725. Debtors were imprisoned in 349 cases, moveable property was sold in 12,749 and immoveable in 76,615.

Miscellaneous cases.

435. In Bengal the number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 50,726 in 1910 to 52,454. The number disposed of fell from 52,329 to 51,198, and the number pending rose from 11,528 to 13,153. Of the cases disposed of, 22,827 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed, 12,934 were decided *ex varte* and 15,437 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 52·6 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 73 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Burdwan (36). The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 11,608 in number, showing an increase of 1,695 as compared with the preceding year. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 11,335, and the pending file rose from 1,247 to 1,520.

In the Eastern Bengal districts 38,582 cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings were instituted during the year, 37,450 were disposed of and 9,789 were left pending. Of the cases disposed of, 15,165 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed, 13,232 were decided *ex varte* and 9,053 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 52·1 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 27 had been pending more than a year. The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and disposed of during the year was 4,966 and 4,848 respectively. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in Rajshahi (1,032), Dinajpur (439) and Backergunge (431). The increase in the number of such applications in Rajshahi from 699 to 1,032 is noticeable.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

436. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1911, and the number pending at its close, were 23,879, 24,974 and 3,367 respectively. These figures show an increase of 932, 746 and 379 respectively as compared with the previous year. The largest proportion of the increase was in suits valued at between Rs. 500

and Rs. 1,000 (17·5 per cent.). The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 46,26,942 during the year as against Rs. 42,47,037 in the preceding year. There was a further increase in the average duration of cases.

Mode of disposal.

437. Of the 24,974 suits disposed of during the year, 1,790 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave. 18,962 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,221 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in one the plaint was either rejected or returned. Of the 3,367 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1911, 645 had been pending for more than three months against 357 so pending at the close of the preceding year.

Compromised	5,678
Decreed on confession ...	3,918
Decreed *ex parte* ...	9,283
Dismissed *ex parte* ...	83
Total ...	18,962

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

438. Seventy appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 44 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 63 were decided and 51 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 33 less than in 1910. Of the number undecided, none were pending for more than two years. One hundred and sixty-four third appeals were filed during the year and 151 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 68 were decided and 247 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

439. In Bengal the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the courts of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of first and second appeals from decrees were respectively 120 and 591 less than in 1910. The number of first and second appeals from orders, on the other hand, was more by 10 and 51 respectively than in the preceding year.

	Pending at the end of 1910.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1911.
First appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,463	475	291	1,647
From orders ...	480	374	302	552
Second appeals.				
From decrees ...	6,082	3,738	2,353	7,467
From orders ...	254	306	203	357
Total ...	8,279	4,893	3,149	10,023

Appeals pending.

440. In Bengal, at the close of the year, there were pending 2,199 first appeals, of which 1,647 were from decrees and 552 from orders, and 7,824 second appeals, of which 7,467 were from decrees. The total is more than the number pending at the close of 1910 by 1,744. The number of first and second appeals pending at the close of the year in the Eastern Bengal districts was more by 29 and 739 respectively than at the close of 1910.

Results of appeals.

441. Of the 377 appeals from original decrees decided in Bengal during the year, 23 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest was that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 87 cases, reversed in 59 and varied in 99, while 109 cases were remanded. Of the 3,210 appeals from appellate decrees decided during the year, 1,824 were heard and determined with the result that 1,113 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 285

reversed and 133 varied, while 293 cases were remanded. Of the 618 appeals from orders decided during the year, 68 were uncontested, 92 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 458 were decided after trial, with the result that 256 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 84 reversed and 38 varied, 80 cases being remanded.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

442. At the opening of the year 38 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England and 85 were pending for orders. Thirty-six new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 25 were struck off or compromised, 29 were despatched to England and 105 appeals (1 of 1902, 1 of 1907, 7 of 1908, 9 of 1909, 57 of 1910 and 30 of 1911) were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 59 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

443. The results of six appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in three instances and reversed in three.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

444. In Bengal and Eastern Bengal 24,271 appeals were instituted in 1911, an increase as compared with the previous year of 715. The increase in the appellate work coming before the courts is small when compared with the large increase in the disposals of original suits. Of the appeals instituted in 1911, 11,002 were in title suits, 10,146 in rent suits and 3,123 in suits for money or moveables. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 2,757 and 7,789 respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts in 1911 was Rs. 44,07,146. The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts during the year was 98,448. The number of appeals instituted in 1911 was larger than in the previous year in 17 districts and smaller in 14. The largest increases were in Midnapore (371), Tippera (262), Mymensingh (251), Hooghly (240) and Khulna (144). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals decided.

445. The number of appeals decided (20,896) was less by 5,537 than in 1910. In the courts of District and Additional Judges disposals decreased by 3,278, and in those of Subordinate Judges by 2,209, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (17,869) was 3,783 less than in 1910. The decrease in disposals was spread over 20 districts, and was largest in Backergunge (1,452), Chittagong (724) and Faridpur (531). The decrease in disposals in Backergunge is accounted for, partly by the fact that a large number of appeals in cases under the Bengal Tenancy Act were decided by a Special Judge in the previous year, and partly by the fact that the Subordinate Judges were required to deal chiefly with long-pending suits. There were noticeable increases in Rajshahi (246) and Nadia (232).

Appeals pending.

446. There were 17,233 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 3,980 more than at the end of 1910. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 392 in 1910 to 772. The number was largest in Midnapore (255), and assistance has therefore been given to the Judge of that district.

Result of appeals.

447. In Bengal the result on the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows :—In 5,705 cases, or 50·3 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed ; in 1,594 cases, or 14 per cent., it was modified ; and in 1,964, or 17·3 per cent., it was reversed. Six hundred and forty-three appeals, or 5·7 per cent.. were remanded, and 1,443, or 12·7 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are less favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year.

In the Eastern Bengal districts the result on the decisions of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows :—In 5,613 cases, or 58·7 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed ; in 1,004 cases, or 10·5 per cent., it was modified ; and in 1,463, or 15·3 per cent., it was reversed. The results are more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year. Five hundred and seventy-five appeals were remanded, and 892 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

General.

448. The year was marked by a further increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts both in Bengal and in Eastern Bengal. There was a considerable increase in disposal by Munsifs, both contested and uncontested, in spite of which the pending file rose as regards both the total and the number pending more than a year. There was a large increase of the appellate arrears, owing to a diminution in the outturn of all classes of courts. The smaller outturn of both original and appellate work by District and Additional District Judges is accounted for by the fact that, owing to the pressure of criminal work, they were able to devote to civil work 2,614 days only, or 255 less than in 1910. Subordinate Judges disposed of fewer appeals but more original suits than in the preceding year. There was a further increase in the number of appeals pending on the appellate side of the High Court. In this connexion it may be observed that three Judges were occupied for 65 days on Special Benches constituted under Act XIV of 1908, and that the pressure of criminal work necessitated the formation of additional Criminal Benches in August and September, and again from November 20th to the end of the year.

Inspection.

449. In Bengal the courts of 11 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 53 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges during the year under rsport. The courts of seven Subordinate Judges and 48 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges in the Eastern Bengal districts.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

450. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal for the year under review amounted to Rs. 92,42,438, a decrease of Rs. 1,44,272 from those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 45,45,577, an increase of Rs. 1,73,291 on those of 1910. Inclusive of the amount realized on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 46,96,861, or Rs. 3,17,563 less than in 1910, and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 41,22.490.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	4,38,243 (a)
In other courts ...	1,36,128 (a)
	5,74,371

(a) *The figures are for the financial year 1911-1912.*

The receipts of the civil courts in Eastern Bengal districts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 70,36,326, an increase of Rs. 2,99,071 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 23,63,487, a decrease of Rs. 1,401 on those of 1910. Including the amount of Rs. 1,16,091 realised on account of duty on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 46,72,839, or more by Rs. 3,00,472 than the profit of 1910; and, exclusive of the item referred to the surplus amounted to Rs. 45,56,748.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

451. The total number of suits instituted during 1911 in the Civil Courts in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 370. The suits were for money or movable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 484. The number disposed of was 328: of these, 40 suits were contested and three were disposed of by arbitration. The number of miscellaneous cases was 1,809, of which 953 were disposed of, omitting transfers. The total number of appeals from decrees was 61, and the number disposed of, 42. Out of nine miscellaneous appeals, eight were decided. One thousand, one hundred and twenty-two applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 869 were disposed of.

Registration.

[Report of the Registration Department of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911. Statistical Returns of the Registration Department of Bengal for 1911. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial, Part VI. Administrative and Judicial.]

Registration.

452. Four new offices were opened during the year, viz., at Madhupur in Mymensingh, Kaimari in Rangpur, Sarahat in the 24-Parganas and Saltora in Bankura district. There was a small increase in the total number of

deeds registered, the total being 1,373,550. Registrations decreased in Burdwan Division chiefly owing to the better outturn of crops and the continued dulness of the coal market. Mortgages decreased largely in Burdwan and Birbhum, partly because money-lenders were unwilling to lend money on the mortgage of "jamai" lands, and partly on account of a recent High Court ruling having declared occupancy rights in land to be non-transferable without the consent of the landlord. Registrations in Calcutta were almost the same in 1911 as in 1910, but in the 24-Parganas, both registrations and receipts were the highest on record. The increase in the total number of registrations (5·2 per cent.) in this district is attributed to the popularity of the department, the high price of food-grains and a growing spirit of speculation in land. A large increase of 22 per cent. under miscellaneous registration is noticeable in this district, and is attributed to the fact that promissory notes were preferred to bonds for the repayments of loans of paddy. The increases in the Eastern Bengal districts are said to be due to the survey and settlement operations in Mymensingh, and petty resettlement between zamindars and tenants elsewhere, to the sale of agricultural holdings mortgaged in consequence of the failure of crops in previous years, and to the increased number of transactions in land and property consequent on a greater pilgrimage to Mecca during the year.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872.

453. Thirty-seven marriages were registered during the year, as compared with 25 in 1910-11. Twenty-four were registered in Calcutta, 1 in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Howrah, 1 in Krishnagar, 2 in Noakhali, 1 in Tippera and 6 in Dacca. Of the 21 Marriage Registrars under the Act and 28 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars, only ten Marriage Registrars and one *ex-officio* Marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The age of the bridegrooms ranged from 19 to 55, and that of the brides from about 15 to 29. Five widows whose ages ranged from 15 to 24 were re-married.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act in Bengal.

454. In the year under review, Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was, as in the preceding year, in force in 26 districts in the Presidency of Bengal. There were 267 registration offices open at the end of the year against 266 in the preceding year. Two registration offices were opened during 1911-1912, one at Hooghly and the other at Zorwarganj, in the district of Chittagong, while the registration office at Jhenida, in the district of Jessore, was abolished, and its jurisdiction amalgamated with that of the Salkopa office. Registrations took place in 250 offices, and no work was done in the remaining 17. The total number of ceremonies registered rose from 49,110 to 58,270, an increase of 18·6 per cent.

Working of the Indian Companies Act VI of 1882.

456. The number of companies registered during the year was 126 against 68 of the preceding year, of which 124 were limited by shares and two were limited by guarantee. The figures for the previous year were 66 and 2 respectively. Of the 124 new companies, 95 were promoted by Indians, 14 jointly by Indians and Europeans and 15 by Europeans. It must be admitted, however, that in Bengal the number of companies floated and successfully managed by Indians is still in a minority. Fourteen companies ceased to work against 24 of the previous year, and six companies that went into liquidation in previous years submitted their final reports during the year. One hundred and thirty-seven companies limited by shares increased their capital against 129 of the previous year, and four such companies reduced their capital against five of the previous year. The total number of companies limited by shares working at the close of the year was 745 with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 82,69,60,700, and paid up capital of Rs. 26,47,57,634. There were 635 companies in the previous year with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 80,20,15,200, and paid up capital of Rs 25,65,18,576. The total amount of fees realized during the year of report was Rs. 23,868-4. No company availed itself of the provisions of the Indian Companies Branch Registers Act IV of 1900. The provisions of section 69 of Act VI of 1882 were complied with in all cases during the year.

Of the 124 companies registered, 56 were insurance companies as compared with 12 in 1910. The marked increase was due to the introduction into the Governor-General's Council of the Insurance Bill which, among other

things, provided for the deposit of a large sum of money in Government securities by companies proposing to carry on the business of life assurance. To avoid the payment of the deposit, a large number of insurance companies, some with only nominal capitals, were floated a few months, and in some cases only a few days, before the passing of the Insurance Act of 1912. Some of these companies are not expected to last long. The Star of India Insurance Company, Limited, with a nominal capital of Rs. 1,00,000 was registered on the 11th April 1911, and went into liquidation on the 25th September of the same year.

456. The following six societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860 during the year :— Working of Act XXI of 1860.

1. The National Council of Young Men's Christian Association of India and Ceylon.
2. The Industrial Home and School for Blind Children.
3. The Maju Public Library.
4. The Gandhabanik Databya Sabha
5. The Noakhali Town Hall.
6. The Dacca Orphanage Society.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1911-12—Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

457. A perusal of the reports leaves the impression that, while municipal administration in Bengal has achieved a very considerable and creditable amount of success, it has not kept pace with the progress that has been so noticeable in other directions in the last few years. Generally, the rate-payers seem to have been apathetic, and where a keen interest has been displayed, party feeling has often taken the place of that public spirit which is so essential to real municipal self-government. Some of the large municipalities—Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Dacca, Darjeeling, Kurseong and others—have shown great energy in grappling with the problems presented to them, and considerable appreciation of the true ideals of municipal administration, but the majority have not shown any great anxiety to improve their present condition, have often too readily accepted the usual plea of poverty and have shown a disposition to wait till improvements are forced upon them. Sanitation is the chief work of municipalities, and largely owing to liberal grants from Government, very considerable progress has been made in the improvement of the urban water-supply in the last few years and many municipalities have undertaken costly schemes of surface drainage; the influence of such works on the public health and convenience cannot be overestimated. A pure water-supply and an efficient drainage system are undoubtedly the two most important requirements of sanitation in the province, but they do not by any means exhaust its demands, and there are constant complaints from all the divisions that the present system of conservancy leaves much to be desired. The great drawback hitherto has been the lack of a trained executive agency for general sanitation, but steps have now been taken to provide a service of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors for employment in municipalities, and it is hoped that Municipal Commissioners will welcome the opportunity of obtaining a trained sanitary agency which will undoubtedly be more efficient and will probably be very little more expensive. General remarks.

The general scale of municipal taxation throughout the province is by no means excessive, and is lower than that which prevails in other provinces; the percentage of rate-payers to the municipal population is also low, and it is reported that the burden is not always equitably distributed. The first essential is a fair distribution of the incidence of municipal taxation and equally important is the organization of an efficient Collection Department. The advantages of efficient municipal administration are local, and if the people concerned desire these advantages they must be prepared to pay for

them. It is not reasonable for them to expect to secure these advantages at the expense of the general tax-payer.

Number.

458. The reconstitution of the province from the 1st April 1912 has resulted in a decrease of 19 in the total number of municipalities in Bengal ; 54 out of the 130 previously in Bengal have been transferred to the new province of Bihar and Orissa, while 35 previously in Eastern Bengal and Assam are now within the boundaries of this Presidency. No new municipalities were established during the year, but a proposal to constitute a municipality at Bhola is at present under consideration.

Elections.

459. The elective system was extended during the year to Sonamukhi in Bankura, Kamarhati in 24-Parganas and Chakdaha in Nadia. General elections were held in 24 municipalities, and a fair amount of interest was taken in them by the rate-payers ; the percentage of attendance of voters in Western Bengal varied from 80 to 27, but it must be remembered that the percentage of rate-payers to population in the whole province was only 15·9. while it is reported that, in the Presidency Division, only 66 per cent. of the rate-payers pay not less than 6 annas a quarter, which is the minimum rate necessary to qualify for a vote. The elections at Barisal were declared invalid by the District Magistrate, owing to certain irregularities in the poll.

Attendance at meetings.

460. The total number of meetings held was 1,980 against 1,879 in the previous year. Of these 146 had to be adjourned for want of a quorum. Eight municipalities failed to hold 12 meetings in the year, while in eight others the interest in municipal affairs, as judged by the attendance of Municipal Commissioners at meetings, was not very great. On the other hand, in 72 municipalities the average attendance was over 50 per cent. and at North Barrackpore, Bhatpara, Baduria and Patuakhali three-quarters of the Commissioners attended every meeting.

Number of rate-payers.

461. The total number of rate-payers rose from 311,798 to 312,338, and the percentage of rate-payers to population was 15·9. The percentage was lowest in Titagarh (3·5), Garulia (5·2), Bhatpara (5·9), Bhadreswar (6·2), Garden Reach (8·8) and Narayanganj (8·9). The low percentage in Narayanganj, one of the most advanced and thriving municipalities in the province, is explained by the presence in the town of a large number of factory labourers whose rates are paid by their employers.

Assessment and taxation.

462. In 37 municipalities and in certain wards of the Bhadreswar, South Dum-Dum, South Barrackpore and Rampur Boalia Municipalities the rate on holdings is the principal form of taxation. In 70 municipalities and in the remaining portions of the four municipalities mentioned above a tax on persons was in force. In addition latrine-fees were levied in 92 municipalities, a water-rate in 14 and a lighting-rate in 4. The average incidence of taxation per head of population for the whole province was Re. 1-14-8 as compared with Re. 1-12-7 during 1910-1911, the increase being shared by all the divisions. Omitting the hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong where the incidence was Rs. 8-3-7 and Rs. 4-15-4, respectively, it varied from Rs. 4-15-3 in the Cossipur-Chitpur Municipality to annas 4-4 in Debhatta. The Presidency Division, where the greatest demand for a progressive municipal administration might be expected, still shows the lowest incidence of taxation though it has risen from Re. 1-7-6 to Re. 1-10-1 and many municipalities appear to regard municipal improvement as too expensive a luxury.

Revision of assessments.

463. A general or partial revision was made in 82 municipalities, with noticeably satisfactory results in the following instances :—

	Increase of revenue.
	Rs.
Howrah	17,282
Budge Budge	12,880
Dacca	8,621
South Suburban	7,560
Tollyganj	5,450
Darjeeling	4,900
Narayanganj	4,684
Maniktala	3,778
Cossipore-Chitpur	3,412
Dinajpur	3,173
Burdwan	3,040

In the Midnapore Municipality the assessment was found to be insufficient and inequitable, and after the close of the year an order has been passed under section 111A of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, requiring the municipality to revise and amend the assessment. At the request of the Municipal Commissioners a Sub-Deputy Collector has been deputed for the work.

Collections.

464. The percentage of total collections on current demand was 97·8 compared with 94·7 in the previous year. The improvement was common to all divisions, and it was most marked in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions where 102·4 and 97·6 per cent. were collected as against 88·3 and 90·5 per cent., respectively, in 1910-1911. Of individual municipalities those showing the best results were Khirpai (117·2), Raniganj (114·06), Dacca (108·7), Halisahar (106·2) and Patuakhali (105·0). The Garulia Municipality succeeded in collecting the entire amount of its demand, and showed neither remissions nor outstandings at the close of the year. Twenty-one municipalities against 13 in 1910-1911 were able to show collections of cent. per cent. and over, while in the Debhatta, Hooghly-Chinsura, Rampur-Boalia, Chandrakona and South Suburban Municipalities the collections declined by about 72, 22, 15, 14 and 12 per cent., respectively. The percentage of total remissions on current demand rose from 3·0 to 4·1, and the Provincial figure was greatly exceeded in the Garden Reach (37·5), Dhulian (25·4), Halisahar (19·3) and Burdwan (15·4) Municipalities. Though the outstanding balances in Dacca and Burdwan declined by Rs. 32,694 and Rs. 11,294, respectively, they still amounted to Rs. 20,803 and Rs. 17,928 at the end of the year. Large outstanding balances were also shown by the municipalities of Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 18,656), Mymensingh (Rs. 17,177) and Maniktala (Rs. 11,516), and ten municipalities showed unrecovered balances of Rs. 5,000 or more.

Income and expenditure.

465. The total receipts of the municipalities in the province, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 78,08,730 as compared with Rs. 75,31,496. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads :—

	Rs.
Opening balance	53,105
Municipal rates and taxes	2,48,325
Sources other than taxation—Loans and advances	56,373

The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 59,76,731 as against Rs. 60,77,206 in the previous year. There was a decrease of Rs. 3,60,242 under the head "Extraordinary and Debt," while increased expenditure was incurred under the heads "Public health and convenience" (Rs. 1,84,265), "Miscellaneous" (Rs. 38,892) and "General administration and collection charges" (Rs. 21,894).

Closing balances.

466. The closing balances rose from Rs. 14,54,290 to Rs. 18,31,999. The largest balances were held by Howrah (Rs. 4,40,446), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,57,768) and Burdwan (Rs. 1,10,126). The increase in Burdwan was due to abnormal receipts by way of contributions on account of drainage scheme. In Hooghly-Chinsura it was due to non-payment of money owing for the water-works.

INCOME.

Total receipts.

467. The total income of the year, excluding that under the heads of "Opening balance" and "Extraordinary and Debt," amounted to Rs. 50,85,013, showing an increase of Rs. 1,67,756 over the figures of the preceding year. Details of the main items of revenue are given below.

Taxes on houses and lands.

468. Under this head there was an increase of Rs. 1,29,221, of which Rs. 54,637 was due to collection of large arrears in Dacca and Rs. 36,183 to better collections and the revision of assessments in Garden Reach.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

469. This source of revenue becomes every year of less and less importance to municipalities. The receipts fluctuate from year to year, but the tendency on the whole is downward chiefly owing to the improvement of communications and increased facilities for railway and steamer traffic.

Water-rate.

470. This rate was levied in 14 municipalities, and the total receipts showed an increase of Rs. 65,483. The increase at Dacca (Rs. 27,516), however, was only nominal, as the rate was only in force for a portion of the previous year. The settlement of their dispute with the Port Commissioners

has enabled the Garden Reach Municipality to show an increase of Rs. 14,378. The only other large increase was in Maniktala where the enhancement of the rate from the second quarter and the assessment of new and improved holdings resulted in an increase of Rs. 10,086, but a portion of this was illegally levied and will have to be refunded. As the water-rate is a direct payment for benefit received, it should in all cases be sufficient to fully pay the cost of the water-works up-keep and loan charges, leaving the general tax free for general sanitation and improvement.

Lighting rate.

471. The rate is levied only in the four municipalities of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala and Darjeeling. The receipts under this head rose by Rs. 8,344.

Conservancy.

472. The income under this head shows an increase of Rs. 39,975 mainly in the Dacca Division (Rs. 21,872). The receipts from the sale of night-soil and the disposal of refuse and street sweepings are still very small (Rs. 2,323) and are slightly lower than in the previous year. In other provinces some municipalities make a considerable revenue from this source, and even allowing for the difference of conditions it does not seem that the municipalities in this province have yet realised the agricultural value of this refuse and the possibility of increasing their income from this source.

Tax on persons and tax on professions and trades.

473. The receipts from the tax on persons increased from Rs. 3,69,094 to Rs. 3,70,376, while those from the tax on professions and trades declined from Rs. 57,659 to Rs. 57,110. The variations were slight and call for no remarks.

Receipts under Hackney Carriage Act.

474. Fifty-three municipalities as compared with 51 in the previous year derived an income under this head, the aggregate amount showing an improvement of Rs. 2,294 over the revenue of the previous year. The municipalities of Kamarhati, Halisahar and Kishorganj against which receipts were shown in the preceding year derived no income from this source during the year under review.

Prevention of cruelty to animals.

475. The fines realised under Act I (B. C.) of 1869 or Act XI of 1890 and credited to municipal funds in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions amounted to Rs. 4,313. Fines realized in Howrah were made over to a special committee, and those in the district of Darjeeling to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals working in that district. Under the orders of the Government of India the arrangements under which the municipalities in Eastern Bengal enjoy the income from this source have been made permanent, and these receipts are not specified in the divisional reports.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds, and contributions from private individuals.

476. The receipts under this head show a decline of Rs. 48,378. The most noticeable grants made by Government during the year were to the municipalities of Howrah (Rs. 2,50,000 for the extension of the water-supply), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 50,000 for water-supply), Dacca (Rs. 40,000 for the improvement of the conservancy tramway line and for the improvement of the pathways giving access to private privies), Chittagong (Rs. 20,000 for general improvement), Midnapore (Rs. 11,907 for education), South Suburban (Rs. 11,700 for water-supply), Serampore (Rs. 10,000 for water-supply), Bhatpara (Rs. 10,000 for drainage), Jessore (Rs. 10,000 for water-supply), Chandpur (Rs. 8,180 for the old bazar water-works), Ranaghat (Rs. 7,000 for drainage) and Comilla (Rs. 7,000 for the survey of the town). There were few striking instances of private liberality during the year, but the following deserve special mention :—Rai Jyot Kumar Mukharji Bahadur made a donation of Rs. 35,000 towards the water-supply scheme at Uttarpara and the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan contributed Rs. 10,000 for the drainage scheme at Burdwan. The Midnapore Municipality received Rs. 13,669 from the King Edward Memorial Fund for the construction of a new ward of the Pierce Hospital. In the Kotrung Municipality Babu Kristo Nath Mukharji of Barrackpore is reported to have erected a *pucca* bathing *ghât* at Shibtala at a cost of Rs. 25,000 for the use of the public.

EXPENDITURE.

Office and collection establishment.

477. The total expenditure under this head showed an increase of Rs. 16,433. The percentage calculated on the total ordinary expenditure was highest in Taki (25·3), Nalchiti, Debhata and Bazitpur following with 22·3 22·1

and 21·1, respectively. The high percentage in Taki is due to the cost of the assessment of the municipality carried out during the year. It is satisfactory that the percentage in the new municipality of Dhulian has been further reduced to 13·7 from 18·5 in the previous year and 39·7 in 1909-1910.

Prevention of fire.

478. As in the preceding year 23 municipalities showed expenditure under this head, that incurred by Howrah (Rs. 21,481), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 28,420), Maniktala (Rs. 2,824) and Garden Reach (Rs. 4,707), representing the amount contributed towards the maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In comparison with the expenditure of the previous year, the expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 10,492.

Lighting.

479. The expenditure under this head showed a small increase of Rs. 2,519. As in the previous year the municipalities of North Barrackpore, Taki, Birnagar, Chakdaha and Debhata did not incur any outlay at all on this important branch of administration, and although the attention of the local officers was drawn to the same omission last year no explanation has been offered. The South Barrackpore Municipality which spent a small amount under this head in the previous year did not spend anything in 1911-1912. The lighting is reported to be defective in many municipalities, and complaints are specially made regarding Bankura and Hooghly-Chinsura. The matter is one that directly affects the convenience and safety of the inhabitants, and it is hoped that all municipalities will pay greater attention to it in future.

Water-supply.

480. The expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 1,70,822, and the bulk of the increase (Rs. 1,53,781) occurred under the head "Capital outlay." The outlay under the head "Establishment, repairs, etc.," declined in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. The most important scheme undertaken is the extension and improvement of the water-supply of Howrah, which is now estimated to cost Rs. 16,97,162. Government promised to contribute Rs. 5,00,000, and half of the contribution was paid during the year. The Jessore water-supply scheme is expected to be completed during the current year. At Narayanganj the Municipal Commissioners have recently erected a second pump, for which a project amounting to Rs. 25,000 was sanctioned by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Mymensingh water-works were improved at a cost of Rs. 60,303 by the installation of a new engine and a boiler and the construction of a third sand-filter-bed. The work in connection with the water-supply schemes at Hooghly-Chinsura, Serampore, Pirojpur and Khulna was in progress, while schemes for Uttarpara and for the extension of the Narayanganj water-supply to the east side of the river Lakhya were under preparation during the year. A regular system of water-works has been initiated at Chandpur, for which the Government has recently sanctioned a loan of Rs. 15,000. The Barisal water-works to which Government has largely contributed were opened during the year, but they were not completed owing to the failure to collect Rs. 8.000 out of the promised local subscriptions. The Sanitary Engineer reports that the works will be a failure, unless they are completed in accordance with the scheme, and it is incumbent on the municipality to rouse sufficient public spirit to prevent this catastrophe. A scheme for water-supply at Nator on what is known as the "Faridpur system" is under the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners.

The reports show that there is a danger of municipalities overlooking the limitations of a water-supply scheme. After completion the works require constant and skilled supervision, and it is most wasteful to stint the expenditure on up-keep or employ a cheap supervising agency. But a greater danger is a disregard of the limit of the capacity of the pumping plant or filter-beds; a scheme designed to deliver a fixed maximum of gallons cannot be forced to deliver more without endangering all the works. The commonest form of improvidence in this direction is a too liberal grant of unmetered house-connections with the consequent inevitable waste of water, and Mymensingh and Dacca have both experienced trouble in this way. The provision of a meter in all house-connections as provided for in the model rules is a most important safeguard against waste, and enables the benefits of a water-supply to be far more wide-reaching than they can possibly be when so much of the water is wasted by the comparatively small number of fortunate people who obtain house-connections.

Drainage.

481. The total capital outlay declined from Rs. 2,33,651 to Rs. 1,65,933, while the expenditure on account of establishment. repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 1,15,636 to Rs. 1,16,574. The Municipality of Howrah incurred the largest capital expenditure, viz., Rs. 59,358. Schemes were under consideration at Dacca, Mymensingh and Suri. Drainage projects for Ranaghat and Kushtia have been sanctioned and the work will be commenced shortly. Administrative approval of Government was conveyed to the Katwa drainage scheme and to the combined drainage and water-supply scheme for Bankura. The detailed plans and estimates for the latter have since been sanctioned. The Baruipur scheme and the second portion of the Bhatpara scheme were completed during the year, and the Burdwan Municipality has taken up the work in connection with the drainage of the town according to a modified scheme costing Rs. 1,50,000. The drainage work of the Serampore Municipality will be taken up as soon as the water-supply scheme is completed, while the undertaking at Hooghly-Chinsura has been postponed indefinitely in view of the large expenditure on the water-works now in progress. The Baranagar Municipality completed its drainage, with the exception of the outfall channel and the sluice at the mouth of the Dantia khal. The municipalities connected with the Bagjolla khal project are considering a revised scheme.

Conservancy.

482. The expenditure under this head shows an increase of Rs. 1,03,914. It rose in 66 municipalities, the most noticeable increase being in Dacca (Rs. 63,194) and Howrah (Rs. 22,397). The increase in the former was due to improvements to the conservancy tramway line. The difficulties in the way of efficient conservancy are great, and this branch of administration is weak in most municipalities, special complaints being made in Hooghly-Chinsura, Krishnagar, Bankura, Berhampore and Dacca where the difficulties are specially great. It is in the matter of conservancy that the utility of trained Sanitary Inspectors will be most apparent, and it may be anticipated that as soon as these are ready for employment, a general advance will be made in conservancy arrangements which will be much appreciated by the rate-payers.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

483. The expenditure under this head declined in all the divisions, the total decrease being Rs. 85,093. It rose in 39 municipalities only, while in the rest it was either stationary or showed a decrease. The decrease was most marked in Burdwan, viz., Rs. 42,107, but it was mainly due to the fact that in the previous year the municipality contributed a sum of Rs. 40,000 towards the construction of the new Fraser Hospital which raised its medical expenditure abnormally. The provision of local medical aid is one of the duties of local bodies, and there is no reason to suppose that the decrease in expenditure is due to a decrease in local needs or to private charity taking the place of municipal subventions. The advance in the standard of medical requirements must involve increased expenditure, and economy on hospitals and dispensaries must act very hardly on the poorer inhabitants of the municipalities and cannot be without its effect on the general health of the towns.

Plague and other epidemic disease charges.

484. The expenditure under this head was incurred only in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. It rose in the former but fell in the latter, resulting in a net decrease of Rs. 2,588. The increase in the Burdwan Division was chiefly due to an outbreak of plague in Burdwan town.

Public works.

485. The expenditure under this head showed an increase of Rs. 18,429 over the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred under all the sub-heads except "Buildings" under which the expenditure fell from Rs. 96,389 to Rs. 61,839. In 33 municipalities in the province the percentage borne by the outlay on public works on the total ordinary expenditure was 25 per cent. or more, and the rate varied from 54·7 in the Dhulian Municipality to 2·2 in Kurseong. It was unduly small in Garulia (4·4), Ramjibanpur (5·4) and Suri (5·7). The condition of the roads in Berhampore and Krishnagar is reported to be unsatisfactory.

Public instruction.

486. The total expenditure rose by Rs. 5,150 as compared with the previous year, the increase being common to all the divisions except Rajshahi. The ratio of expenditure on primary education to the total ordinary income of the municipalities in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions and of the

municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong varied from 12·6 in Debhata to ·78 in Darjeeling. Of these, 30 municipalities spent less than 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income on primary education.

Loans.

487. Forty municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and their total indebtedness, after deducting Rs. 4,909, the amount of the sinking fund investments of the Burdwan Municipality on account of loans raised in the open market, was Rs. 40,08,654. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 21,09,452), Darjeeling (Rs. 7,19,081), Dacca (Rs. 3,35,359) and Narayanganj (Rs. 1,53,686). Twelve municipalities received loans during the year, namely, Darjeeling (Rs. 1,43,000 for the construction of bazar barracks and for water-supply and drainage), Howrah (Rs. 35,000 for the extension of the water-works), Jessore (Rs. 30,000 for water-supply), Narayanganj (Rs. 25,000 for water-works), Dacca (Rs. 20,000 for the improvement of the conservancy tramway line), Ranaghat (Rs. 16,000 for drainage), Baranagar (Rs. 15,000 for drainage), Garulia (Rs. 10,000 for drainage), Budge Budge (Rs. 5,000 for the extension of the trenching-ground), Khulna (Rs. 5,000 for water-supply), Mahespur (Rs. 1,250 for water-supply) and Bansberia (Rs. 1,200 for the construction of office buildings).

Liabilities.

488. On 31st March 1912, 58 municipalities in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, together with Darjeeling and Kurseong in the Rajshahi Division, had outstanding liabilities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works amounting to Rs. 71,267, which represented 2·8 per cent. of their current demand. In four municipalities, viz., Kamarhati, Baduria, Satkhira and Bishnupur, the outstanding liabilities exceeded the closing balance.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

489. Embezzlements were detected in the municipalities of South Suburban, Nadia, Bhadreswar and Kotchandpur. No case of misappropriation has been reported from the Eastern Bengal Divisions.

Howrah.

490. The record of the Howrah Municipality during the year has been one of great progress. The ordinary revenue of the year was Rs. 8,87,728 and the collections amounted to 99·84 of the net current demand, leaving a total outstanding balance of Rs. 3,333 only at the close of the year. The ordinary expenditure was Rs. 7,99,028, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 88,700. The outstanding debt is Rs. 21,09,452, and the municipality is committed to improvement schemes which will absorb the growing revenues for some time. The extension of the water-works at a cost of nearly 17 lakhs is in progress and will provide for an immediate increase of supply from $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 5-million gallons, with an ultimate supply of 8-million gallons. The surface drainage scheme is progressing and will eventually cost 19 lakhs, while the sewerage scheme, which must be undertaken as soon as the municipality has finished the water-supply and drainage, will cost 20 lakhs. Much no doubt remains to be done, and the cleanliness of Howrah is of great importance to Calcutta, but great credit is due to the Commissioners for the work already done, and they have shown that they fully realise their responsibility and are prepared to grapple with the difficulties. An application has been made to Government to extend certain sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act to Howrah to enable the Commissioners to deal with the evils that have been experienced in Calcutta. Road repair which has been somewhat neglected in the past has now been taken up systematically, and the Commissioners have decided to light the town with electricity in future.

Administration.

491. The general record of the year's municipal administration is reviewed by the Divisional Commissioners, and there are no very striking features. In the Burdwan Division, Burdwan and Midnapore are again unfavourably mentioned as the worst administered towns in the division, and Hooghly-Chinsura and Bankura have both very great room for improvement, while in Uttarpara party feeling still exists to a deplorable extent. The assessment at Midnapore is being revised by a specially selected officer, and the probable increase of income should be followed by very considerably increased efficiency. In the Presidency Division most of the advanced municipalities conducted their affairs with credit to themselves, but the Maniktala, South Suburban and Krishnagar Municipalities leave very much to be desired, and the administration in Taki, Nadia and Debhata was much hampered by the existence of strong party feeling. In the Dacca Division

Narayanganj has enhanced its reputation for efficient management, but Barisal seems likely to get into financial difficulties, unless a more careful and reasonable system of administration is adopted. In Rajshahi Division, Darjeeling, Kurseong, Dinajpur and Bogra have been well administered, and the municipalities in the Chittagong Division are reported to be satisfactory. All the Commissioners are impressed by the languid interest taken generally in the affairs of the smaller municipalities and by the influence of the fear of unpopularity in retarding sanitary improvement. The municipalities of Burdwan, Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala were allowed a free hand in framing their budgets according to their discretion. The manner in which these municipalities utilised the concession during the year has not been reported.

The Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part VIII. —Local Funds.]

Introductory.

492. The present financial position of the Corporation is exceptionally favourable. The closing balance is nearly 27 lakhs, while the receipts show a surplus of nearly 4 lakhs over the expenditure. It is fortunate that the Corporation is in such a favourable position to meet the initial demand of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, which came into being on the 2nd January 1912. The contribution which the Corporation has to pay towards the finances of the Trust is 2 per cent. on the rateable value of the city. This is at present about 7¼ lakhs per annum, and this additional burden on the resources of the Corporation will probably eventually necessitate an increase in the rates, but it is hoped that the large surpluses referred to above will enable the Commissioners to avoid any increase of taxation at least for the next year or two.

It has not yet been possible to gauge the effect of the transfer of the capital on Calcutta from a municipal point of view. The Assessor is of opinion that, though it will probably result in a set-back in the continuous rise of the rateable value which has characterised the last 10 years, it is not likely to lead to an actual reduction in the valuation of the city. Much more effect is likely to be felt from the operations of the Improvement Trust. The clearance of large areas must necessarily cause a considerable reduction in the rateable value, though in the long run the ultimate increase will more than compensate for the loss.

Revenue Funds.

493. The Revenue Funds opened with a balance of Rs. 22,94,165. Receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 91,27,640 and payments to Rs. 87,38,044. The closing balance was large, viz., Rs. 26,83,761. The receipts were better than the estimates by Rs. 31,470, while the payments were Rs. 9,09,611 below the estimates. On the expenditure and income basis, *i.e.*, including assets and liabilities, the income of the year was Rs. 92,60,884 and the expenditure Rs. 87,29,353 as compared with Rs. 86,96,902 and Rs. 81,08,231, respectively, of the previous year. The surplus of income over expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,31,531. With this surplus and the opening balance of Rs. 13,03,296, the year closed with the substantial balance of Rs. 18,34,827—a fact which demonstrates the solvency of the Corporation. But there is one fact which must not be overlooked. The growth of the recurring receipts did not keep pace with the growth of the recurring expenditure. The former increased by only 5·6 per cent., while the latter increased by 8·1 per cent. There was, however, a surplus of recurring receipts over recurring expenditure amounting to the substantial sum of Rs. 8,57,978. Non-recurring expenditure amounted to over 4½ lakhs, the items worthy of special mention being expenditure in connection with the Imperial visit Rs. 29,376, new burners Rs. 43,686, and works of a permanent nature met out of Revenue Rs. 3,86,992. Compared with the figures of 1910-1911, the receipts and payments show an increase of Rs. 4,67,572 and Rs. 8,63,429, respectively.

Loan Funds.

494. The Loan Funds opened with a balance of Rs. 20,28,770. The receipts amounted to Rs. 13,85,788, Rs. 7,70,000 having been raised by a short-term loan and the remainder accruing mainly from the sale-proceeds of surplus lands and other miscellaneous receipts. The payments amounted to

Rs. 15,86,258, the principal items being Fringe Area drainage (Rs. 2,80,931), filtered water-supply (Rs. 4,94,862), construction and improvement of roads (Rs. 1,20,844), and extension of markets (Rs. 2,20,555).

Loans.

495. The Corporation raised during the year only a short-term loan of Rs. 7,70,000 under the provisions of the Local Authorities Loan Act (III of 1904). This was necessitated by the refusal of the Trustees to the Sinking Fund to accept the suggestion of the Corporation to apply Rs. 20,00,000 out of the accumulation of Rs. 38,00,000 in the Sinking Fund to the repayment of the entire loan of Rs. 20,00,000, which fell due on the 1st December 1911.

The Corporation submitted proposals to borrow Rs. 47,00,000 to finance loan works during the year. Government having intimated that the proposal could not be considered until it was explained how the Corporation proposed to repay the loan of Rs. 20 lakhs referred to above, the proposals were revised.

The Local Government then recommended to the Government of India that sanction should be given to the raising of a loan of 25 lakhs only. The Supreme Government, however, withheld sanction until the Corporation, by a thorough examination of their position with due regard to the probable effect of the change of capital upon the taxable capacity of Calcutta, could show that they were able to raise the surplus revenue to a figure which would cover the contribution to the Improvement Trust and leave sufficient margin for the service of fresh loans proposed, with an adequate payment to the Sinking Fund. In the circumstances no loans could be raised during the year under report to finance loan works. The works for which funds were urgently required were financed from the balances in hand. The explanations and the information wanted by the Government of India have since been submitted, and sanction has been asked to raise a loan of 34 lakhs during the current year.

Loan Liability.

496. The aggregate loan liability of the Corporation at the beginning of the year stood at Rs. 4,83,27,500, including a balance of Rs. 5,00,000 of the special plague debenture loan. The plague loan, as also the 3½ per cent. debenture loan of 20 lakhs of 1896-1897, were repaid during the year. No new loan having been raised, the liability outstanding at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 4,58,27,500.

Borrowing capacity.

497. Under section 131 of the Act, the borrowing powers of the Corporation are limited, so that interest and Sinking Fund charges on the loans outstanding in any year shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the annual rateable valuation of the city. The valuation on the 1st April 1912 was Rs. 3,71,74,783, 10 per cent. of which amounts to Rs. 37,17,478. The loan charges on outstanding loans amount to Rs. 24,30,394, excluding the voluntary contribution of Rs. 3,10,640 for the current year to the special reserve fund, created to prevent a shortage in the growth of the Sinking Fund, and represent 6·54 per cent. of the valuation. There is thus a reserve of Rs. 12,87,084, being 3·46 per cent. of the valuation available to meet charges on fresh loans.

Assessment Department.

498. During the year under report Wards 9, 10, 15 and 16 and the Port Commissioners' properties were revalued on the expiry of the six-yearly period of assessment. The revised valuation of Wards 10 and 15 made in the last month of the year did not come into effect until after the close of the year. There were also intermediate valuations in all the wards on account of new buildings, and additions and improvements to old buildings. On the whole, there has been an increase of nearly 23½ lakhs in the valuation of the town, exceeding by 5 lakhs the budget estimates and constituting the highest increase on record for the last 30 years.

Collection Department

499. The Collection Department has improved on the excellent record attained in 1910-1911. The total demand on account of rates, including the arrears of previous years, amounted to Rs. 69,57,060. Out of this demand, Rs. 2,56,660 were remitted on account of vacancies, Rs. 66,14,640 were collected, Rs. 70,580 were pending enquiries with the Assessor and Rs. 5,710 were either cancelled as irrecoverable or were transferred to the Law Department for realisation by suit. The balance unrealised and pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 9,460 only. The percentage of collection on the net demand amounted to 99·84 as against 99·79 in the previous year and is the highest ever reached.

Bustee Department.

500. The department continued its useful work in the matter of the alignments of huts and bustee streets under the amended rules 37 and 37A of Schedule XVII. After hearing the objections of owners, 75 survey sheets and 13 plans of isolated bustees, covering an area of about 3·2 square miles, were revised during the year under report, as against 73 survey sheets and 3·05 square miles of the preceding year. Standard plans of eight bustees were approved under section 407 and the improvement of two bustees under section 406 was taken up. Various improvements have also been effected in a large number of bustees, the chief among them being the removal of huts, the construction of roads, and the laying of sewers. Huts have been completely removed from about 60 bighas of bustees during the year as against 17 bighas in the previous year.

Water-supply.

501. The past year marks an epoch in the history of the Calcutta Water-Works. It witnessed the successful completion of the scheme for the improvement of the supply of filtered water at a cost of over sixty lakhs of rupees. The elevated reservoir was completed in January and the laying of the 6 feet and 5 feet mains in May 1911. Water from the reservoir was turned into the new mains on the 16th May 1911. The objects sought to be attained by this project were threefold, viz., (1) the increase of the supply, (2) the improvement of the distribution and (3) the prevention of waste. The primary characteristic of the scheme is the substitution of a central gravitation supply from the elevated reservoir at Tallah for the former system of distribution from a number of pumping stations. The scheme has resulted in a large increase of pressure, particularly in the outlying areas, and there is now practically no part of Calcutta which does not receive the minimum pressure of 40 feet provided for in the Act. This general improvement of pressure has led to a considerable increase in the consumption of water. The daily average supply has now risen from 28 to 34 million gallons. Even now, owing to the large amount of waste, it is impossible to inaugurate a continuous supply; but the prevention of waste is engaging the attention of the Chief Engineer, and it is hoped that it may be possible to make the supply continuous, at least as a tentative measure, during the current year.

Suburban and Fringe Area Drainage.

502. The construction of the sewers in the Fringe Area is being pushed on with vigour. A length of 21,257 feet of sewers, mains and branches, was completed during the year under report. This work together with the 36,281 feet constructed previously makes up 57,538 feet out of a total 71,891 feet. The Fringe Area Drainage project includes 11,596 feet of 60 feet and 13,970 feet of 40 feet new roads, together with water-supply mains and accessories and lighting. One thousand and six hundred feet of wider roads and 4,392 feet of 40 feet roads were completed during the year, with footpaths, kerbing and channelling, water-mains, hydrants, standposts, &c. The small unexecuted portion of this work will shortly be finished and the Fringe Area Sewerage System with these roads, when completed, will not only greatly improve the sanitary condition of this low-lying portion of the city, but will also open out the whole of this sparsely inhabited area and attract the population from the most crowded areas when they are dislodged by the operations of the Improvement Trust.

Street Lighting.

503. Last year negotiations were carried on with the Gas Company for the execution of a supplementary agreement for lighting and maintaining the lamps during a period of 21 months. The Corporation and the Gas Company were unable to come to terms and the Corporation therefore decided to form its own Lighting Department forthwith and to take over the lighting of the city. Pending the completion of the necessary arrangements it was agreed that the Gas Company should carry on the lighting of the city as before for a period of nine months from the 1st May 1911 without prejudice to the principal agreement. Subsequently it seemed desirable not to venture on the installation of new burners, etc., until after the Royal visit was concluded, and the date of taking over the lighting was postponed to the 1st March 1912. The change of installation was commenced on the 10th February 1912 and was completed by the 26th idem. The first batch of lamp-lighters was taken over on the 15th February and the remainder were transferred in a body on the last day of the month. The lighting of the city was taken over by the

department and the principal agreement with the Gas Company for the supply of gas came into operation on the 1st March 1912.

Roads.

504. The total expenditure during the year on road repairs amounted to Rs. 6,51,948 as compared with Rs. 5,95,113 in the preceding year. The roads have been cut down to the regulation camber wherever necessary and the surplus metal has been utilised in road repair work. As regards experiments with road-making materials, Messrs. Gladstone, Wyllie & Co. having refused the settlement proposed by the Corporation in respect of their claims on account of the asphalte pavement in College Street and Dalhousie Square East, the matter went to arbitration and it was decided that the Corporation should pay Rs. 19,853 in respect of the pavement in College Street and Rs. 13,263 with interest in respect of the pavement in Dalhousie Square East. The failure of these experiments and the consequent loss to the Corporation are greatly to be regretted. Mr. MacCabe's tar macadam in Esplanade East has succeeded beyond all expectation. During the year Government Place East and Old Court House Street were treated with this composition at a cost of Rs. 13,742 and the portion of Dalhousie Square North which had previously been paved with lithofalt blocks which proved a failure was similarly dealt with. It is proposed to take up some more streets during the current year.

In view of the Royal visit last cold weather it was considered necessary to adopt special measures for laying the dust. Several of the roads round about Government House and those which their Imperial Majesties were likely to traverse were treated with crude petroleum mixed with 5 per cent. of coal-tar, and as a large quantity of surplus materials remained, the treatment was continued for some time. The composition was effective in laying the dust, but the surface of roads became loose and was cut up in places.

Conservancy.

505. The average quantity of refuse dealt with per diem during the year amounted to 1,236 tons against 1,135 tons in the preceding year. The Municipal Railway carried the bulk of it to the Square Mile and about a tenth of it was disposed of at the Goragatcha Incinerator. The purchase of two additional locomotives for the Conservancy Railway was sanctioned, seven new refuse waggons were added to the rolling stock, and nine more are due from the workshops.

Squares.

506. Further improvements have been effected in most of the squares under the control of the Corporation. The foot-walks and lawns have been properly looked after and the tanks have been kept clear of weeds as far as possible. The scheme for opening a park in the north of the town has not yet matured. Negotiations were going on with Government, in connection with the making over of the khas mahal land for the purpose. Government asked for a detailed scheme to be placed before them and desired the Corporation to consider whether the project could not more appropriately be taken up by the Improvement Trust. The question of recommending the scheme accordingly to the Improvement Trust is under consideration.

Health Department.

507. The most remarkable feature of the year 1911 is that the number of births registered has exceeded that of any previous year, the registered figure being 19,515 against 17,106 of the previous year. The total number of deaths, 24,396, is slightly in excess of that of the previous year, when 23,728 deaths were recorded. These figures are very satisfactory, regard being had to the unparalleled influx of people to the city during the Imperial visit at the end of the year. Excluding increased deaths from plague the year under report may be recorded as the healthiest during the last ten years.

The birth-rate was 21·7 per mille against 19·3 of the previous year. This increase was mainly due to a better system of registration of births, the vaccination stations having been converted into birth registration offices and kept open every day instead of on alternate days as formerly. The death rate during the year was 27·2 per mille as compared with 26·6 which was the rate of mortality in the previous year as calculated on the estimated increase of population since 1901. This slight increase in mortality was chiefly due to plague. Of the total number of deaths no less than 14·9 per cent. (3,639) were due to cholera, small-pox and plague. One fact seems noticeable and it is that the mortality is the greatest in winter and least during the monsoon. This the Health Officer attributes to the probable departure of a large number of people from the city before the rains, to return to it during the cold weather.

The infantile death-rate on the total of registered births was the lowest for over 20 years. There were 4,911 deaths of infants against 4,679 of the previous year, giving a rate of 251 per 1,000 on the total registered births as compared with 273 per 1,000 of the previous year.

There were 1,860 deaths from cholera against 1,901 of the previous year. This is very satisfactory having regard to the great influx of people during the Royal visit. The death-rate from cholera was 2 per 1,000 as against the quinquennial average of 3 per 1,000. This is the smallest mortality from this disease recorded for the past 10 years. There were also fewer deaths from small-pox, the number of deaths being 41 as compared with 48 in the previous year. This again is the lowest mortality from small-pox since 1893 and gives the lowest death-rate of ·04 per 1,000 for over 20 years. The number of vaccinations performed during the year was 32,936, showing an increase of 8,677 cases over the previous year. The amended Vaccination Act came into force during the year.

There were only 1,293 deaths from malaria as against 1,463 in the previous year. The improvement in the death-rate from this disease has been progressive for several years past and is ascribed chiefly to the more effective drainage and to some extent to mosquito-exterminating operations.

The question of adulteration of food-stuffs received adequate attention during the year, the number of samples of *ghi*, milk, butter, mustard oil and other articles of food examined being greater than in the previous year. These examinations cannot, however, be of much use until more effective legislation is undertaken. The proposal for legislation on the lines of the English Food and Drugs Act is still under the consideration of the Government and the Corporation. The supply of pure milk has been engaging the attention of a special committee of the Corporation for some time past and they are formulating schemes with a view to this object. But here again legal difficulties of a serious nature are hampering the proposed measures. Plague was more severe and extensive in Calcutta during 1911 than in the previous year. There were 1,851 cases and 1,736 deaths as against 1,324 cases and 1,262 deaths in 1910.

Markets.

508. During the year the total income of the *Sir Stuart Hogg Market* amounted to Rs. 3,73,618 as against Rs. 3,58,657 of the previous year. The increase of Rs. 14,961 is mainly due to better collections of rent from permanent stall-keepers and wholesale vendors. The expenditure from revenue on account of establishment, repairs, etc., amounted to Rs. 81,538. Supplies generally have been sufficient and quality has been well maintained. Salt water and fresh water fish and fruits and vegetables have been specially plentiful. Several structural improvements were made during the year.

The total collection of the *Lansdowne Market* during the year under report amounted to Rs. 2,378, showing an increase of Rs. 257 over last year's collection. This is the largest collection since the market was established in 1906-1907.

In the *Sir Charles Allen Market* as a result of the encouragement given in the shape of free stalls, etc., to vendors, there is now a regular supply in fairly large quantities of a sufficient variety of fish, vegetables and fruits. There is no doubt also that the market is becoming more attractive.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

509. The total number of cases instituted was 18,945, which is slightly in excess of the number of the previous year. This together with the cases pending from the previous year brought the total for disposal to 20,568. Of these 17,311 ended in conviction. The amount of fines imposed was Rs. 81,537 against Rs. 94,352 of the previous year. There was a very large increase in the number of cases under the bye-laws, which rose from 3,479 to 6,832. This was mainly due to the greater activity shown by the Engineering Department in regard to the obstruction of footpaths by vendors.

Royal Visit.

510. This report would be incomplete without some account of the visit to Calcutta of their Imperial Majesties after the conclusion of the Coronation Durbar at Delhi. A Special Committee was appointed to draft the address to their Majesties, and arrangements were made for a welcome which might be worthy of Calcutta and the Royal Visitors. The Corporation co-operated heartily with the Royal Reception Committee, to the funds of which they contributed Rs. 15,000 in cash. In accordance with the kind wishes of their

Majesties, the Corporation resolved to devote only Rs. 3,000 out of their allotment of Rs. 25,000 to the casket and address and to donate the whole of the balance to charities. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for the illumination of the municipal buildings. Arrangements on an adequate scale were made in all the different departments of the Corporation to cope with the great influx of people into the city during the visit of the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress. The roads around Government House and those through which their Majesties were to pass were specially treated with oil and tar at a cost of Rs. 20,000. Pipes were specially laid in order to supply water to the school children who had the privilege of witnessing the Royal procession along the Red Road and the Pageant on the Maidan. Special conservancy gangs were employed at the cost of the Public Works Department, to clear away the refuse which accumulated each day on the Maidan. The Health and Conservancy Departments did excellent service, and it is gratifying to note that there was no outbreak of disease and that the mortality was even below the average.

The King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress received the loyal greetings of the City at Prinsep's Ghât to which His Majesty was pleased to reply. Their Imperial Majesties graciously presented to the Corporation two large photogravures of themselves. They stayed in Calcutta from the 31st December 1911 to the 8th January 1912, and the farewell speech which His Imperial Majesty delivered at Prinsep's Ghât expressed the pride, pleasure and gratification, which he and the Queen-Empress felt in the loyal and enthusiastic welcome which they had received.

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

Meetings of District and Local Boards.

511. There was no change in the number of District and Local Boards in existence during the year. The District Boards held 379 meetings as compared with 359 in the preceding year. Eighteen against ten in the previous year proved abortive for want of a quorum. The total number of members was 509, out of which 133 were members *ex-officio*, 166 were nominated non-officials and 210 were elected. The number of elected members in the previous year was 207.

Local Boards held 856 meetings, 43 more than in 1910-1911 ; but of these 88 were adjourned for want of a quorum. Of the 843 members of Local Boards, 49 were *ex-officio*, 437 nominated non-official and 357 elected members. There was an increase of 20 in the number of elected members. Of the total number, only 100 were officials.

Elections.

512. General elections were held in Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore and Hooghly. A general election of members of the Local Boards at Kalna, Katwa and Asansol, and in the district of Nadia and in each of the districts of the Rajshahi Division also took place during the year. The elections failed in nine thanas of the Bankura district, and seven vacancies had in consequence to be filled by nomination. In two thanas out of three in the Arambagh subdivision and in Chuadanga thana in Nadia, the elections similarly failed.

Powers of Local Boards.

513. The District Board of Burdwan transferred to the Local Boards the work of sinking new wells and maintaining existing ones. The Indian Mining Association proposed that all roads in the Asansol subdivision should be made over to the Local Board, that a separate qualified Engineer should be appointed to supervise them, and that the cesses realised from that subdivision should be granted in their entirety to the Local Board. This arrangement has been approved by Government. In the three Eastern Bengal Divisions no change in respect of the powers delegated to Local Boards took place.

Union Committees.

514. Two Union Committees at Lawada in Burdwan and Gourpara in Jessore were abolished, and two new committees established at Jhenida and Bongaon in Jessore district. The number of unions in the two Western Bengal Divisions is 24. In Eastern Bengal there are unions (nine in number) in Tippera and Noakhali districts only. The total income of these bodies was

Rs. 29,992. In the Presidency Division contributions from the District Boards constituted practically the sole source of the income of the committees. Five unions in the Burdwan Division and three in Chittagong derived a portion of their income from taxes leviable under section 118C of the Local Self-Government Act. Authority has since been given to the committees at Harinakunda and Bongaon in Jessore to levy taxes under that section. The Contai Union Committee in Midnapore has decided to raise Rs. 1,800 annually by the imposition of a local rate, and the District Board intends to grant an equivalent amount.

Financial results.

515. The year opened with a credit balance of Rs. 22,39,931, and the total income of the District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 67,29,752. Of the total amount thus available for expenditure, Rs. 66,02,340 was spent, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 23,67,343. The income and expenditure for the last two years under the main heads are shewn below :—

	INCOME.					EXPENDITURE.			
	1910-1911.		1911-1912.			1910-1911.		1911-1912.	
		Percentage of total income.		Percentage of total income.			Percentage of total income.		Percentage of total income.
	Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue	239	·003	287	·004	Administration	1,98,254	3·1	2,08,666	3·1
Provincial Rates	29,02,861	46·04	29,16,562	43·3	Law and Justice ...	951	·01	1,957	·02
Interest	15,604	·2	17,150	·2	Police	21,902	·3	23,586	·3
Law and Justice	2,075	03	2,163	·03	Ports and Pilotage ...	20,377	·3	15,427	·2
Police	3,35,485	5·3	3,62,474	5·3	Education	13,21,520	20·6	14,52,256	21·9
Education	6,29,029	9·9	7,22,262	10·7	Medical	3,52,125	5·5	3,52,801	5·3
Medical	63,159	1·001	61,659	·1	Minor Departments ...	60,920	·9	64,520	·9
Minor Departments ...	14,301	·2	15,451	·2	Superannuation ...	46,383	·7	51,158	·7
Stationery	2,546	·03	1,928	·02	Stationery, etc.	22,263	·3	28,001	·4
Miscellaneous	2,29,056	3·6	2,85,450	4·2	Miscellaneous	24,928	·3	30,773	·4
Railways	48,824	·7	46,302	·6	Famine Relief	...	...	...	...
Irrigation	20,882	·3	22,773	·3	Minor Works	1,66,215	2·6	1,08,415	1·6
Civil Works	13,52,783	21·4	15,47,588	22·9	Civil Works	34,18,162	53·4	37,37,234	56·6
Loans	2,61,152	4·1	60,000	·8	Interest, etc.	4,058	·06	3,768	·05
Deposits, etc.	4,26,380	6·7	6,67,703	9·9	Repayment of loans ...	11,109	·1	13,235	·2
					Deposits, etc.	7,19,477	11·2	5,10,543	7·7
Total ...	63,04,376	...	67,29,752	...	Total ...	63,89,344	...	66,02,340	...

INCOME.

Provincial rates.

516. The income under this head increased by Rs. 13,701. There was a decrease in the Rajshahi, Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, the district of the 24-Parganas alone being responsible for Rs. 13,535. The largest increase was in Chittagong (Rs. 27,798), due to a revaluation.

Police (Pounds).

517. The total number of pounds increased from 3,775 to 3,855, and the income rose by Rs. 26,989. Attempts to settle pounds for periods longer than one year were successful in Burdwan and Murshidabad. The "Band Rakhali" system prevailing in Tippera seems to have led to a diminution in the Board's income from pounds. Under this system villagers appoint men to guard their fields, and cattle found trespassing are seized and not released until a fine is paid to meet the cost of maintaining the guards called "Band Rakhals."

Civil works.

518. Receipts rose by Rs. 1,94,805. The decline of Rs. 30,790 in the Burdwan Division is attributed to fluctuations in the augmentation grant. The increase from Rs. 3,14,280 to Rs. 4,55,638 in Dacca Division is partly due to "tolls on ferries." Similar increases are noticeable in the figures of the Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions. Cases of plying unauthorized

ferries were frequent in the 24-Parganas, and offenders were punished under the Bengal Ferries Act.

519. During the year the 24-Parganas District Board received Rs. 20,000 as the first instalment of the loan of Rs. 60,000 taken from Government for the construction of feeder roads to the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway. The District Board of Dinajpur borrowed Rs. 40,000 from Government to construct permanent bridges. **Loans.**

EXPENDITURE

520. The aggregate expenditure rose by Rs. 9,712. The cost of "office establishment" rose from Rs. 1,36,056 to Rs. 1,39,505, and that under "contingencies" from Rs. 62,898 to Rs. 69,161. **Administration.**

521. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 13,21,520 to Rs. 14,52,256, and, with the exception of Burdwan, all divisions contributed to this increase. The number of Upper Primary aided schools in the two West Bengal Divisions increased by 23, that of Lower Primary schools dwindled from 10,619 to 10,496, while the number (36) of Middle schools remained stationary. The decrease in primary schools is due to the withdrawal of the Boards' grants from inefficient schools to provide increased aid for more deserving institutions. The number of *maktabs* and of Muhammadan pupils is increasing. Lower Primary schools in the Eastern Bengal Divisions have increased with great rapidity, 1,179 additional schools receiving aid during the year, of which Mymensingh accounts for 342. There is a tendency to encourage efficient lower primary schools in preference to aiding indifferent Upper Primary schools. The schools for aboriginal races continued to do useful work. **Education.**

522. The Burdwan and Midnapore District Boards maintain two technical schools which have about 70 boys on their rolls. A branch of the Serampore Weaving School was started at Bankura and is reported to be doing good work. The sericultural school at Sabong in Midnapore was converted into a nursery for rearing silk-worms. The only special school in the Presidency Division is the Coronation Technical School at Khulna. In the artisan class there were 28 boys, in the "B" class 10 and in the amin class 12, against 26, 15 and 13, respectively, in the previous year. The Board is considering a scheme for raising the status of the amin class to that of a survey school. The Kashi Kishore Technical School at Mymensingh continued to impart instruction in carpentry, cane and bamboo work, brass-casting and blacksmith's work. New machinery was purchased during the year, and the sale-proceeds of the articles manufactured increased. The Elliot Artisan School at Tippera received its yearly grant of Rs. 920 from Government. **Special schools.**

523. The expenditure showed a trifling increase of Rs. 676. The Burdwan District Board raised its contribution to the Fraser Hospital from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000, and, besides maintaining 11 dispensaries, gave support to ten temporary fever dispensaries, including a floating one on the Bhagirathi. The District Board of the 24-Parganas opened a new dispensary and appointed a Sanitary Inspector. In Eastern Bengal no District Board except Dacca, Mymensingh and Backergunge maintain any medical institutions. In the Chittagong Division the Sitakund Dispensary, which was formerly under the direct management of the District Board, was transferred to the independent charge of a managing committee, at whose disposal all receipts were placed. The number of aided dispensaries in the Rajshahi Division increased by two, and the District Board of Rangpur gave a contribution of Rs. 2,000 towards the establishment of a Pasteur Institute at Shillong. The total number of dispensaries maintained and aided rose from 113 and 229 to 119 and 237, respectively. **Medical.**

524. The Patna system of village sanitation continued to work in the districts of Midnapore, Birbhum and Hooghly. The Midnapore District Board initiated a measure for the raising of funds by local donations and taxes for the conservancy of the town of Contai. The efforts of the Dacca District Board to improve the sanitation of the town of Manikganj **Sanitation.**

met with much success. The Sanitation Committee at Sarisabari in Mymensingh is doing useful work. Six District Boards spent nothing on sanitation.

Veterinary charges.

525. The Mymensingh District Board which spent the largest amount (Rs. 3,339) under this head entertained a Veterinary Assistant for each of the five subdivisions. The total expenditure in the province increased by Rs. 1,004. On the whole the Veterinary Assistants seem to be becoming popular, and the people are gradually appreciating their services.

Railways.

526. A proposal for a light railway from Krishnagar to Jallinghi was pending during the year. The District Board of Jessore gave a guarantee to Messrs. K. M. Dey & Co. for the construction of a light railway from Jessore to Jhenida with a branch from Kaliganj to Kotchandpur. The work is in progress. The Khulna District Board entered into a provisional agreement with Messrs. Martin & Co., for the construction of two light railways, one from Nabasan to Satkhira and the other from Khulna to Bagerhat. The Faridpur District Board sanctioned a project for the construction of a light railway from Faridpur to Bhanga. The District Board of Mymensingh considered the question of constructing a light railway from Banti to Tangail, but postponed coming to a final decision until the question of the site of the head-quarters of the proposed new district was finally decided by Government.

Civil works.

527. The expenditure rose by Rs. 3,19,072, chiefly due to increased outlay on roads in the Burdwan Division and on the Barisal water-works. The District Board of Chittagong increased its expenditure on account of silt clearance and straightening of sharp bends in the Murari Canal. In the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions the mileage of all classes of roads shows an increase. The increase of mileage in Eastern Bengal districts was 34.

Water-supply and water-works.

528. The Barisal water-works account principally for the increased expenditure of Rs. 1,53,076. The Hooghly District Board paid Rs. 10,000 as the balance of its contribution to the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality for water-works, and the Jessore District Board made a contribution of Rs. 5,000 to the Jessore Municipality for a similar purpose. The Dacca and Backergunge District Boards gave contributions to the water-works at Munshiganj and Pirojpur. Nine District Boards expended less than Rs. 5,000 for the improvement of the water-supply in rural areas. Difficulties have been experienced everywhere, and especially in Mymensingh and Barisal, in working up to this expenditure, which is prescribed by Government as a reasonable minimum standard. The system under which the District Board pays two-thirds on condition that the remaining third is contributed from private sources has not proved a success. People generally fail to contribute their share in labour or in money, and even when contributions are offered, the offer is made conditional on the selection of a site for the tank or well in close proximity to the donor's compound—thus frustrating the object of providing a source of water-supply at a central site in the village.

Drainage.

529. Expenditure on "original works" and "repairs" decreased from Rs. 7,491 and Rs. 3,078 to Rs. 4,343 and Rs. 2,453, respectively. There was no expenditure under this head in the Burdwan Division, and very little in the Presidency Division. The District Board of the 24-Parganas, however, spent Rs. 1,08,415 in connection with the Magra Hât drainage scheme and on survey work in connection with the preparation of a project for the improvement of the Nawi and Sunthi rivers under the Sanitary Drainage Act. This expenditure has been included under the head "Minor Works and Navigation." No important drainage scheme was undertaken in Eastern Bengal. The District Board of Rajshahi paid Rs. 1,000 to steamer companies towards the cost of keeping open the channel of the Padma near Rampur-Boalia town. This is a work of much importance for the health of the town and its communications.

Arbor culture.

530. All Boards, except Dacca and Faridpur, gave attention to this subject, and the total expenditure increased by Rs. 4,655. The District Board of Mymensingh has prepared a new quinquennial programme, which has

been approved by the Director of Agriculture, concentrating the work of planting new avenues on one road at a time till it is completed.

Closing balances.

531. The aggregate balance (including deposits amounting to Rs. 7,36,973) was Rs. 23,67,343 against Rs. 22,39,931 in the previous year. The highest actual balances were held by the Burdwan (Rs. 2,85,510), the 24-Parganas (Rs. 2,68,962) and Midnapore (Rs. 1,71,078) District Boards. For Burdwan, it is explained that, so long as large savings have to wait for allotment until a supplementary budget can be framed and sanctioned, it will be impossible to work up to the full amount. There is also the difficulty of obtaining sufficient labour until the paddy crop has been harvested. The close of the financial year coincides with the middle of the working season, and the suggestion has accordingly been made that the District Board year might be fixed so as to expire on the 30th June instead of on the 31st March.

Government control of District Boards.

533. The recommendations of the Royal Decentralization Commission with regard to Rural Boards were considered by Government during the year, and the views of Government thereon have been submitted to the Government of India. Government found that there was no conclusive evidence that the Rural Boards had been unduly hampered by the Government control of their expenditure. Orders for the compulsory expenditure of 10 per cent. of the income of Districts Boards on primary education ran counter to the recommendations of the Commission,and instructions have already been issued withdrawing the definite orders of 1895 imposing an irreducible minimum of expenditure. The Commission recommended that Rural Boards should have full powers to pass their budgets, subject only to the maintenance of a minimum balance. The Commissioner has full control over the budgets of the Boards under the Local Self-Government Act. Government has agreed to relax this control, and to direct that the supervision of the Commissioner shall only be concerned with the following subjects :—(1) maintenance of a minimum balance, (2) repayment of existing loans, (3) appropriation of all money contributed for a specific purpose to that purpose, (4) observance of all legal provisions and orders of Government, and (5) formal technical correctness of the budget. The question of granting larger powers to Rural Boards in regard to the allotment of funds and the passing of estimates of work is still under the consideration of Government.

Volunteers.

Total strength.

533. The total number of volunteers and reservists during the year 1911-1912 was 7,508, of whom 7,193 qualified as efficient. Sanction was accorded during the year to the formation of a detachment of the Calcutta Light Horse at Midnapore, and to the addition of two more troops in the same corps.

Marine.

[The information contained in this Chapter has been obtained from reports which are annually submitted to this Government. The reports consulted are—

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for 1911-1912.
(2) Annual Report on Shipping Offices for 1911-1912.
(3) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1911.
(4) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments for 1911-1912.
(5) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission for 1911-1912.
(6) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for 1911-1912.
(7) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for 1911-1912.
(8) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission for 1911-1912.
(9) Administration of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong for 1911-1912.
(10) Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds.]

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service.

534. The total strength of the service during the year 1911-1912 was 58 pilots and 14 leadsmen, against 58 pilots and 16 leadsmen in the previous year. Two Branch Pilots retired and one died ; two leadsmen apprentices were recruited from England during the year.

Receipts from pilotage.

535. Pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 14,76,000, against Rs. 14,37,370 in 1910-1911.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

536. An increased number of vessels visited the port, viz., 1,708 with a gross tonnage of 6,765,071, against 1,670 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,375,298 in the previous year. One thousand seven hundred and four vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,750,128 left the port, against 1,666 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,388,041 in 1910-1911.

Casualties to vessels.

537. Twenty-three groundings occurred against twenty-six in the previous year, and two collisions against three in 1910-1911. Eight of the groundings were accidental, and three were due to an alteration in the channel of the river. In ten cases the pilot was held to be free from blame, while in the remaining two the groundings were attributed to his imprudence or error of judgment. The pilots in fault were suitably dealt with by Government. As regards collisions, the enquiries held showed that one case was due to an error of judgment, and in the other the pilot was not to blame. No court under Act XII of 1859 (an Act for the trial of pilots) was held during the year.

Examinations.

538. Eighty candidates appeared at the examination for the grant of Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency as masters, mates or engineers, of whom 40 passed. There were 653 candidates for the examination for the grant of certificates of competency as masters, serangs, engineers and engine-drivers under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884, of whom 194 passed. One license as steam-tug pilot was granted to a successful candidate.

SHIPPING OFFICES AT CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

Finance.

539. The receipts of the Shipping Office during the year 1911-1912 amounted to Rs. 1,05,571, against Rs. 95,802 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to the sale of discharge and cookery certificates, and to larger receipts on account of shipping, discharging and overtime fees and sale of forms. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 62,475, as compared with Rs. 57,463 in the preceding year. The increase was mainly due to higher overtime charges and the cost of forms and stationery. The increase in the cost of forms is due to a greater demand for them in connection with the engagement of seamen.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

540. The statement below shows the number of seamen shipped and discharged under European and Indian articles, at the Shipping Offices at Calcutta and Kidderpore, during the year 1911-1912, as compared with the year 1910-1911 :—

	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
European articles ...	948	780	...	168
Indian „ ...	42,887	46,632	3,745	...
Discharged—				
European articles ...	922	870	...	52
Indian „ ...	38,461	40,384	1,923	...

The number of Eurasian seamen shipped during the year under European and Indian articles was 66 and 349, respectively, being an increase of 7 and 105 over the figures of the previous year.

Repatriation of seamen.

541. One hundred and thirty-one seamen were repatriated during the year under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations, against 132 in the previous year.

SHIPPING OFFICE AT CHITTAGONG.

Control.

542. As a result of the territorial changes, the Chittagong Shipping Office passed under the administrative control of this Government from the 1st April 1912.

Financial result.

543. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 1,004, and the expenditure to Rs. 708, against Rs. 923 and Rs. 712.

respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in the receipts is mainly due to larger receipts on account of discharging fees.

544. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 162 and 843, against 191 and 706, respectively, in the previous year. **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

545. The Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta inspected 789 inward-bound and 809 outward-bound vessels during the year 1911, against 969 and 793 in the previous year. The numbers of crew and passengers passed or rejected during the year were :— **Inspection of vessels.**

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward-bound vessels	Crew ...	58,620	64
	Passengers ...	25,867	78
Inward-bound vessels	Crew ...	47,287	...
	Passengers ...	8,736	...

546. Six hundred and twenty-four European seamen were treated in hospitals for various diseases, against 684 in 1910. There were 13 deaths, against nine in the preceding year. There were 67 cases of venereal diseases, against 82 in 1910. The number of deaths at sea during the year was 13, against eight in the previous year. The total number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 111 or 4·29, against 138 or 4·63 per mille in 1910. **Health of the seamen.**

547. There were six cases of small-pox, one case of plague, one case of chicken-pox and 17 cases of cholera in the different vessels in the port. Two cases of suspected small-pox were also discovered on board one vessel. All the vessels were disinfected. **Disinfection of vessels.**

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

548. The total receipts of the Agency were Rs. 2,69,782. The expenditure was Rs. 2,44,103. **Finance.**

549. The tonnage dealt with was— **Tonnage handled.**

Packages ...	613,081	(including 282,739 fire-bricks).
Tons ...	26,474	

The value of freight bills passed was Rs. 3,61,395.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

550. The Chief and Assistant Inspectors made 4,463 observations of smoke-emission, against 3,962 in 1910-1911. In the course of their inspection of factories, they tested fuel furnaces; stoking appliances were tested in 278 cases. There has been a steady improvement in the abatement of the smoke-nuisance. The average emission of offensive smoke has also been further reduced. The Commission hope to secure greater improvement, by reducing the present limits of smoke-emission, which are considered unnecessarily liberal. The proposal submitted by the Commission to attain this end, by an alteration of the rules, has been approved by the Government of India. The Commission experience considerable difficulty in dealing with the nuisance caused by the manufacture of coke in open fires. The nuisance caused by the emission of smoke from lime-kilns is also great, and complaints have been received from the river-pilots that it obstructs the navigation of vessels plying on the river Hooghly. It is proposed to remove these difficulties by amending the Act. The matter is under the consideration of Government. The number of prosecutions was the same as in the previous year, *viz.*, 47. Conviction was obtained in every case. The use of electricity, oil and gas as a substitute for coal continued to increase. **Observations of smoke and inspections.**

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Receipts and expenditure.

551. The income of the Trust during the year 1911-1912 amounted to Rs. 1,35,71,893, and the expenditure to Rs. 1,33,20,425. There was, therefore, a surplus of Rs. 2,51,468. Net expenditure on capital works was Rs. 45,88,613.

New works.

552. The following are the most important works in progress or completed during the year :—

Improvement scheme on the north of the Howrah Bridge. Reclamation of riverside lands ; reconstruction of bathing ghâts, etc.

Provision of forty covered goods wagons for the Port Trust Railway.
New bridge over the boat canal.
New departmental Graving Dock and slipway.
New depôt for the Army Remount Department
Removal and re-erection of the Sagar Lighthouse.
Depôt for the British Burma Petroleum Company.

Capital account.

553. The capital debt of the Trust on the 31st March 1912 was Rs. 8,49,51,211. The amount of the sinking fund stood at Rs. 1,15,19,955 The value of the properties held by the Commissioners of the Port was Rs. 10,89,63,392,

Financial results.

554. The following table shows in detail the income and expenditure of the Trust during 1911-1912, as compared with those of the previous year :—

	1911-1912.				1910-1911.				DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1911-1912 AND 1910-1911.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	10,265	9,26,029	...	9,15,764	11,323	9,26,697	...	9,15,374	...	390
II.—Jetties	15,76,784	8,72 696	7,04,088	...	14,01,509	7,54,927	6,46,582	...	57,506	...
III.—Tea warehouse	1,74,596	1,03,801	70,795	...	1,68,774	1,02,620	66,154	...	4,641	...
IV.—Petroleum wharf ...	2,86,480	60,752	2,25,728	...	2,27,839	46,845	1.80,994	...	44,734	...
V.—Inland vessels wharves	4.95,214	1,91,880	3,03,334	...	4,63,674	1,74,114	2,89.560	...	13,774	...
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	18,44,107	2,44,052	16,00,055	...	16,87,041	2,06,596	14,90,445	...	1,09,610	...
VII.—Port	5,78,905	5,11,173	67,732	...	5,27,578	5,02,856	24,722	...	43,010	...
VIII.—Port approaches	7,78,078	5,66,434	2,12,644	...	7,40,255	5,58,173	1,82,082	...	30,562	...
IX.—Railway	14,03,086	10,97,865	3,05,221	...	13.73.120	10.41,291	3,31,829	...	...	26,608
X.—Wet docks	32,81.463	29,19,699	3,61 764	...	29,90,370	29,67,990	22,380	...	3,39,384	...
XI.—Dry docks	2,47,788	75,664	1,72,124	...	2,65,691	68,181	1,97,510	...	...	25,386
XII.—Ferry service	2,77,586	2,26,862	50,724	...	2,34,402	2,04,356	30,046	...	20,678	...
XIII.—River dues	24,11,431	...	24,11,431	...	22 45,074	...	22,45,074	...	1,66,357	...
Sale of unserviceable materials ...	43,056	...	43,056	...	32,945	...	32,945	...	10,111	...
Contribution from Howrah bridge	24,873	...	24,873	...	19,710	...	19,710	...	5,163	...
Interest on Revenue reserve ...	1,11,004	...	1,11,004	...	1,12,981	...	1,12,981	...	...	1,977
Interest on Bank balances ...	18,515	...	...	18,515	22,748	...	22,748	...	...	41,263
Amount payable by Capital to Revenue on account of haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to Capital.	44,692	...	44,692	...	2,91,137	...	2,91,137	...	...	2,46,445
Interest and Sinking Fund charges	...	54,17,300	...	54,17,300	...	50,73,734	...	50,73,734	...	3,43,566
Contribution to Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.	...	2,493	...	1,02,000	...	1,18,750	...	1,18,750	16,750	...
Reconstruction of jetty at 60 feet river entrance.	...	2,493	...	2,493	...	44,169	...	44,169	41,676	...
Removal of wreck of S. S. "Onipenta."	...	1,475	...	1,475	...	20,307	...	20,307	18,832	...
Removal of wreck of S. S. "Aral"	...	242	...	242	...	9,567	...	9,567	9,325	...
Removal of wreck of S.S. "Lynx"	...	8	...	8	...	460	...	460	452	...
Insurance premiá in connection with wreck.	...	...	...	...	...	2,137	...	2,137	2,137	...
Total ...	1,35,71,893	1,33,20.425	...	...	1,28,26,171	1,28,23,770	...	...	...	...

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and charges.

555. The income of the bridge during the year 1911-1912 was Rs. 2,41,708 and the expenditure Rs. 2,14,450. There was a surplus of Rs. 27,258, against Rs. 9,862 in the previous year. The receipts from railway traffic rose from Rs. 2,08,024 to Rs. 2,15,934. The bridge was opened on 280 occasions, of which 57 were during the daytime and 223 at night. Three thousand four hundred and twenty-four vessels passed through the bridge against 3,325 in 1910-1911.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Control.

556. In consequence of the territorial re-distribution, the port of Chittagong passed under the administrative control of this Government with effect from the 1st April 1912.

Receipts and expenditure.

557. The income of the ordinary Port Fund during the year 1911-1912 amounted to Rs. 1,89,128 against Rs. 1,34,928 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 54,200. The increase was due to a general improvement in the trade of the Port. The income was supplemented by a grant of Rs. 50,000 from Government, by another grant of Rs. 2,257 for the Boat Traffic Registration office and by the sale-proceeds (Rs. 38,184) of a plot of revetment land taken over by the Assam-Bengal Railway Company for their coal depôt. The expenditure from the ordinary Port Fund (excluding the sum of Rs. 3,747 spent on capital account) amounted to Rs. 1,73,682, against Rs. 1,38,626 during the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 35,056. The increased expenditure was chiefly due to payments made for repairs to the light-vessel *Sarsuti* and to the steam-tug *Gekko*, including fitting new boilers to the latter, and to the payment of arrears due on account of the Port Fund share of the cost of the Port Police establishment. The value of the Port Commissioners' properties (less depreciation) including light houses, lands, works (finished and in progress), stores and materials, vessels. cash and securities, etc., was estimated to be Rs. 34,83,336.

Dredging.

558. The dredger *Karnaphuli* was at work for 168 days during the year on the inner and outer bars of the River Karnaphuli and near the railway terminal jetties. A Government grant of Rs. 92,000 was made to meet the cost of the maintenance of this work, which has proved of considerable value in checking shoaling on the bars as well as in the port itself.

Revetment.

559. The Government grants placed at the disposal of the Port Commissioners for revetment work up to the end of 1910-1911 amounted to Rs. 14,44,753 and the amount given during the year 1911-1912 was Rs 1,00,142. A Government grant of Rs. 50,000 to the Port Fund, enabled the Commissioners to spend an equivalent sum on revetment work. The outstanding balance of loans on this account on the 31st March 1912 was Rs. 5,94,725.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

560. During the year, 388 vessels entered the port, with a net aggregate tonnage of 367,048, against 378 vessels, with a net aggregate tonnage of 355,293 in 1910. Three accidents occurred to vessels, but no material damage was caused.

Health of the port.

561. The general health of the port was good. There was no outbreak of epidemic or infectious disease. All the foreign-going ships were inspected by the Port Health Officer.

BENGAL STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

Extension of the Act.

562. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879, were extended to the Municipality of Jamalpur from the 1st January 1912.

Inspection of boilers.

563. There were at the end of the year 5,064 boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Of this number, 4,132 boilers (including 65 twice presented for inspection) were inspected and certificates granted, against 4,095 and 4,113 in the two previous years. One hundred and sixty-six boilers were struck off the register, which

include 36 boilers condemned, and 13 boilers of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway exempted from inspection under the orders of Government. The remaining 831 boilers were not presented for inspection, being either temporarily out of use or under repairs. There was one prosecution under the Act in the Colliery District, for working a boiler without the required certificate, which ended in the conviction of the offender. The fee for inspecting a boiler on Sunday was reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 25.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th June 1912.]

Administration.

564. The Sabour College staff has been retained in the province of Bihar and Orissa: but this province has taken over the expert staff attached to the Dacca farm. Two agricultural inspectors for the districts of Mymensingh and Rangpur were appointed with effect from 1st April to study the agricultural conditions of these districts. The Deputy Director of Fisheries appointed in England joined his duties in December.

Agricultural education.

565. Attempts were made both in Western and Eastern Bengal to encourage nature study in elementary schools. Gardens have been attached to a considerable number of schools, seeds and simple apparatus for the illustration of lessons have been provided, and manuals in the vernacular prepared for the guidance of teachers. At the Dacca Training College a primary school teachers' class was established for nature study. In Jessore gardens were laid out in as many as 300 primary schools. The late Government of Eastern Bengal placed Rs. 15,000 at the disposal of District Boards to provide schools with vernacular agricultural manuals. It is too early yet to judge of the success of these measures. The system of training field demonstrators at agricultural farms was continued during the year: but the pupils, when trained, look for Government employment as their goal, and have not yet been found to return to their villages and adopt improved methods of agriculture. The questions of extending the teaching of agriculture to secondary schools and of establishing a special school for agriculture are under consideration.

Research and experiments.

566. No definite advance was made during the year in discovering new improvements that could be recommended to cultivators; but work already in progress at the six agricultural stations was followed up. Highly successful results were obtained at the Basirhat farm in connection with the production and flue-curing of cigar and cigarette tobacco. Cross fertilization experiments have shown that jute is normally self-fertilized, and the production of an improved race of jute by selection is the problem which continued to engage the attention of the fibre expert. One or two superior varieties of jute have been found, and an attempt is being made to improve these varieties still further by the method of single plant selection. Experiments with the soils of the Dacca farm and with green-manuring were continued. The survey of the varieties of rape, mustard and sesamum was continued, and the chief varieties isolated and studied in single-line cultures. It has been found that the local varieties of sesamum are all poor in oil-content. Accordingly some of the best varieties from other provinces have been obtained and will be grown alongside local varieties and tested for yield and oil-content. The study of the varieties of chillies cultivated as field crops was started. An investigation into the disease known as *ufra*, which is causing great and increasing damage to the paddy crop in Eastern Bengal, was begun and is still incomplete.

Sericulture.

567. The chief object kept in view by the Silk Committee was the supply of seed free from disease to rearers, and for raising it there are now 19 nurseries or rearing houses with mulberry plantations attached to each. A French expert, Mr. F. D. Lafont, was engaged for three years, from January 1912, to experiment in the hybridising of seed by crossing European with Indian worms. Some hybridised seed raised by him has already been distributed to a number of rearers, and the result of the experiment is being awaited with great interest. A scheme has been drawn up, which has for its ultimate object the supply of the whole province with seed free from disease. It is proposed to build rearing houses in groups, to start more central nurseries under more efficient supervision, and to give up the small village nurseries. In

pursuance of this policy two nurseries have been abolished and another is being converted into a central nursery. The sale proceeds of seed of all the nurseries amounted to Rs. 8,052 as compared with Rs. 7,858 in the previous year.

Fisheries.

568. The work undertaken by the department can be classified thus :— (1) carp culture, (2) *hilsa* culture and (3) *bheri* culture. Experiments were continued to discover why the Bengal carp does not breed in captivity. Mr. Das, Superintendent of Fisheries, who was in charge of the experiment, reported that he had obtained fry from the specimens of *rohu* in the experimental tanks. But when the results were tested, it was found that no precautions had been taken against the entrance of exotic fish larvæ into the tanks. Consequently the results are very questionable. The experiment with *hilsa* failed, and that in *bheri* culture was closed as likely to give no useful results. During the year a laboratory was established in the Indian Museum, where materials collected from the province are being investigated. A fishery survey of the district of Murshidabad was made. A list has been prepared of all the important *ialkars* in the district with the approximate area and output of fish. No work connected with the fishery survey of the Sundarbans estuaries and experimental curing of fish was undertaken during the year.

Agricultural Associations.

569. There are now two divisional, 12 district and 5 branch Associations. Most of the members of the Burdwan Divisional Association undertook definite items of demonstration work, but very few members of the other Associations did any practical work. Thirteen agricultural and cattle shows were held in different parts of the province, to which grants-in-aid, amounting to Rs. 2,850, were made.

Cattle survey and census.

570. A special officer was appointed in November 1911 to make a survey and census of the cattle of the province. The following questions received special attention in the course of the enquiry :—

(1) to ascertain how far each district can supply its own requirements as regards cattle, and to decide whether it is better to import cattle or to rear them locally ;
(2) to ascertain the classes of animals required for plough work and for milk production, and to decide how they can be bred ;
(3) to determine the extent of grazing grounds, and to consider the question of growing fodder crops ;
(4) to estimate the extent of degeneration in cattle ;
(5) to ascertain the extent of the rise in prices of cattle and dairy produce, and its effect on the condition of the people.

Miscellaneous.

571. The problem of improving the jute forecast was taken up, and it was decided to use panchayats as an agency for reporting the acreage and out turn of jute in each district. Arboriculture continued to receive attention, and the revision of the arboricultural manual is being undertaken. Two new rainfall stations were opened during the year.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

Development.

572. The following table shows the expansion of the movement during the year :—

Year.	Central Societies.	Urban Societies—		Rural Societies—		Total number of societies.	Membership.	Capital.
		Limited.	Unlimited.	Lending cash.	Lending grain.			
								Rs.
1910-1911	5	43	4	664	2	718	29,506	14,96,833
1911-1912	7	57	4	873	2	943	38,569	26,07,573

The progress has been satisfactory. Apart from the visible result expressed in figures, there has been some intensive development. The working and administration of societies has improved. During previous years the

extension of the movement was perhaps too rapid to be altogether healthy. It is now time to call a halt, overhaul the machinery and re-adjust it to new conditions. The existing work has to be consolidated and solutions found for the new problems to which progress has given rise.

Central societies.

573. The most important question at present is the double problem of centralisation and decentralisation—the concentration of societies into well-defined autonomous groups involving a devolution of powers of inspection and control from the department to the local units. In Bengal all the central banking unions, except one, have been formed by the combination of groups of societies on a joint-stock basis with limited liability. The objects of such unions are to organise co-operative societies, to control them by regular and careful inspection and to finance them, and generally to carry on a banking business with their affiliated societies. But societies do not always possess members sufficiently intelligent and reliable to manage a complex institution. Accordingly a modification has been introduced into the rules of such unions enabling them to secure the assistance of business-like and educated men, who, though not themselves members of co-operative societies, may be willing to take part in the management of such institutions. Since April 1912 much attention has been paid to the formation of this type of union. In Bengal this will be known as the central bank of the Pabna type. Two new central societies of the Khelar type were established during the year.

Urban societies.

574. During the year the urban societies increased their membership from 6,302 to 8,990, and their working capital from Rs. 4,95,927 to Rs. 8,11,100. They issued loans for Rs. 5,82,223 against Rs. 3,67,602 last year. Recoveries of loans were satisfactory. In the Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions urban societies have played a very important part in the development of the rural movement, and the funds supplied by them have enabled many societies to come into being. As sound business concerns the urban societies are eminently successful, but the absence of the cooperative spirit is their weak point. Many of them are no better than joint stock companies paying a high rate of dividend. It is proposed to limit the rate of dividend to 12½ per cent. by the rules under the Amending Act.

Village societies.

575. During the year work was opened in two new areas, 14 societies being formed in Mymensingh and 21 in Backergunge district. Of the older areas, there was great development in Tippera where the number of societies rose from 35 to 62. The total membership increased by 27·2 per cent. and the working capital by 64·5 per cent. The Raiffeisen type in its main essentials has been followed throughout the province. This type of society is very suitable for simple agriculturists, and no great modification is necessary for its adaptation to Indian conditions. During the year loans were granted amounting to Rs. 9,89,462 against Rs. 5,00,437 last year. Most of the loans are taken for the repayment of debts, while loans for marriages are not numerous. Deposits by members showed a satisfactory increase, but still form only 17 per cent. of the working capital. In the Raipura thana, in Dacca district, the establishment of societies has resulted in a decrease of civil and criminal cases, and created a greater demand for education and for social and economic improvement among the Muhammadans. The societies in Midnapore decided 112 village disputes during the year, and in some villages no member was allowed to go to court without first consulting the societies. These are indications that the modern co-operative society may take the place of the old village community, which has disappeared so completely from Bengal.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1911-1912. Agricultural Statistics of India, volume I.]

Character of the season.

576. In Eastern Bengal, copious rain fell from April to October. From June to August floods occurred, specially along the banks of the Brahmaputra. The total fall was above the normal. December and January were practically rainless. Light showers fell during February and March. In Western Bengal, good showers fell in April and May, and during the months of June and August the rainfall was above the normal ; but in July it was somewhat defective. The injury done by this deficiency was however, counterbalanced

by the copious and well-distributed rainfall in September. Good rain also fell in October. From November to February the fall was below normal. Good showers fell generally during March.

Bhadoi or autumn crops.

577. In Eastern Bengal, sowings were somewhat later than usual owing to defective rain in March. In April, however, there was sufficient rain and the area sown was therefore above the normal. Germination was good. Subsequently the rainfall was excessive and impeded the work of weeding the fields. Then came floods in some parts during July and August. A certain amount of damage was done to *aus* rice and jute, but the amount of damage was not very considerable. In Midnapore and the districts round Calcutta a certain amount of loss was caused by defective rainfall. Injury from insect-pests was reported from Backergunge. Damage from rats as well as from disease and insect-pests was also reported from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Dacca and Tippera. The outturn of the *bhadoi* crops for the province as a whole, excluding jute and cotton, has been estimated to amount to 89 per cent. of the normal.

Jute.

578. Conditions were very favourable for sowing in Eastern Bengal. Incessant rain interfered with weeding during the month of June, and caused a certain amount of damage in lowlands. On highlands, however, the crop flourished. In consequence of the floods, some jute in lowlands was cut before it was ready. In other fields the crop was allowed to stand submerged in water for a considerable time, and there was therefore a low yield of fibre. In Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, the 24-Parganas and Khulna sowing was retarded owing to defective rainfall in April. In these districts, conditions were also unfavourable during the month of July, when the rainfall was deficient. It was estimated that there was an increase in acreage to the extent of about 13 per cent., but that the outturn was only about 88 per cent. of the normal. The latter estimate was, however, probably an under-estimate.

Winter or *aman* rice.

579. Conditions were very favourable for the transplantation of winter rice in Eastern Bengal; but they were not so favourable in Western Bengal owing to the defective rainfall in July. The Western Bengal crop, however, benefited greatly in September from a copious and well-distributed rainfall. In Eastern Bengal, a greater quantity of highland than usual was put under *aman* paddy. Although a certain amount of damage was done by floods in lowlands, the total outturn for the province was estimated to be 103 per cent. of the normal.

Sugarcane.

580. The abundant and well-distributed rainfall in Eastern Bengal from April to November was very favourable to this crop, although a small amount of damage was caused by floods. The provincial outturn was estimated to be 102 per cent. of the normal yield.

Rabi or spring crops.

581. Conditions were not very favourable for these crops during the year under report. There was an untimely rise in river-levels during October and November in Eastern Bengal. Heavy showers also fell during those months. Sowing was therefore delayed. Some seed was destroyed altogether and the land had to be resown. December was a very dry month, and little rain fell during the ensuing three months. In some places good showers fell in March; but they came too late to be of real service. The provincial outturn was estimated to be only 80 per cent. of the normal.

Area under cultivation.

582. The area under cultivation is shown as having decreased. There was undoubtedly a decrease in the area covered by the *rabi* crops, but it is open to question whether there has been really a decrease in the total area. The area cropped has been shown by district officers to be 30,436,800 acres against 30,709,400 acres returned for the previous year. This is a decrease of nearly 3 lakhs of acres. Until a more satisfactory system of making these estimates is introduced, small reliance can be placed on their accuracy. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1910-1911 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1911-1912 inacres.
Rice	22,209,100	21,480,900	20,960,900
Other food-grains ...	2,762,100	2,021,300	1,949,100
Jute	2,577,700	2,423,500	2,737,700
Oilseeds	2,297,100	1,948,800	1,887,800
Tobacco	410,900	323,600	306,300
Sugarcane ...	249,200	224,200	222,600

583. In connection with the question of prices the most interesting article is rice. The price of winter rice fell in seven districts. It was only, however, in the districts of Mymensingh, Faridpur and Tippera that there was a fall in the price of autumn rice. In all other districts there was an increase in price. The lowest price of rice now obtaining is Rs. 2-8 a maund reported as the price of autumn rice for Jalpaiguri. The highest price is reported from Howrah for winter rice, viz., Rs. 5 a maund. It appears extraordinary that, in the adjoining district of the 24-Parganas, the price should be Rs. 4-3 a maund. It is equally extraordinary that the price of autumn rice in Murshidabad should be Rs. 3 a maund, while in the adjoining district of Nadia, it should be as much as Rs. 4-7. **Prices.**

The only district in the province which does not report an increase in the price of jute is Darjeeling. Khulna, however, reported the low figure of Rs. 5-8 a maund. Dacca and Mymensingh secured more than Rs. 8 a maund, while Faridpur and Backergunge had to be content with a little over Rs. 6. Howrah reports the highest price in the province, viz., Rs. 8-8. It is also the dearest district in the province for raw sugar. It is again surprising that this district returns a figure of Rs. 8, whereas the district of the 24-Parganas returns only a figure of Rs. 4-11. Food-stocks are reported to be sufficient.

584. The statistics of agricultural stock are based on a rough estimate, and no satisfactory inferences can be drawn until the tables of the cattle census recently taken are available. It is, however, beyond question that the extension of cultivation and the consequent encroachment on available grazing grounds have had a bad effect on the condition of cattle. Other causes at work are (1) the decrease of good breeding bulls, (2) the increase in the price of milk, which makes it more and more difficult to feed calves adequately, and (3) the increase in the price of food-stuffs. It is true that there has been a corresponding increase in the price of cattle, which has practically doubled within the last ten years. But, as this province imports cattle and does not export, this factor is rather a disadvantage than an advantage. Rinderpest was reported during the year from Mymensingh, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Rangpur, Malda, Chittagong and Burdwan. Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia was reported from Hooghly and Khulna. Measures for the improvement of cattle are under consideration. **Cattle.**

585. The District Officers of Nadia, Burdwan, Midnapore, Howrah and Murshidabad report agricultural deterioration. The District Officer of Burdwan reports deterioration in the colliery areas of the Asansol subdivision owing to land subsidence. In Midnapore, the water-logged tracts of the Contai and Tamluk subdivisions are reported to be deteriorating. In Howrah, the drainage of the Rajapur basin and that of the Amta basin require improvement. In Nadia the gradual silting-up of river channels and the insufficiency of railway culverts are put forward as causes of deterioration. In Murshidabad, a small tract of 200 acres in the Kandi subdivision has been damaged by river sand. In some of these cases it is difficult, if not impossible, to suggest a remedy; in others, a well-considered drainage scheme is the only solution. **Agricultural deterioration.**

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta, and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1911-1912.]

586. Except for the late continuance of the rains of 1911, weather conditions were practically normal throughout the year, and the Royal Botanic Garden at Shibpur was kept in reasonably good order. Much time and labour were spent on the work of revetting the river bank towards the western end of the garden. In addition to the routine work of the garden, the following special works were undertaken during the year:—The old engine-house was demolished and the site cleared, while underground pipes were in part substituted for the open channel that had hitherto conveyed the water from the new pumping station to the garden lakes. A new line of coolie huts was also erected. In addition to clearing out some unsightly trees and tangled jungle that obstructed the view along the arms of Prain Lake, the garden divisions Nos. I and II were systematically gone through, **Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur. General.**

and all dead and superfluous trees and jungle removed. The Curator held the customary course of instruction in arboriculture for overseers from Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Plant and seed exchange.

587. As usual seeds were received from and sent to most of the botanical and horticultural gardens in India, while outside India exchange of seeds or plants was made with private individuals or botanical, forest or horticultural institutions in such places as Kew, Nice, Singapore, Formosa, Yokohama, the Seychelles, Melbourne, New Zealand, Durban, Buenos Ayres, etc., etc. Altogether about 1,700 packets of seeds and tubers and about 4,400 plants were received, and 5,300 packets of seeds and about 44,000 plants distributed.

Herbarium.

588. Nearly 15,000 sheets were added to the herbarium during the year. The additions comprise collections from various parts of India and from other parts of the world. Owing to the absence of the Curator of the Herbarium for more than half the year, the distribution was less than usual, amounting to about 4,000 sheets.

Publications.

589. Part I of Vol. XII of the Annals of the Garden was published during the year. This is a systematic account with plates by Signor Beccari of the species of the genus *Doemonorovs* of climbing palms. An Appendix to Vol. XI embodying descriptions with plates of new species of Calamus also by Signor Beccari was in the press at the end of the year. The account by Mr. W. W. Smith, M.A., late Curator of the Herbarium of the Vegetation of North-West Sikkim, was also published during the year.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

590. The garden was kept in good condition throughout the year. The last of the original rough areas of the garden was regularized and turfed. Additional young trees, shrubs and climbers to the number of 135 were planted out, and the tickets of the plants already catalogued were checked and replaced where missing. Accessions included 64 plants and 188 packets of seeds, while 6,730 plants, 7,000 dozens of annuals and 964 packets of seeds were distributed. The usual collections of indigenous seeds of the district and of Sikkim for exchange with botanical institutions and individuals throughout the world were made. The local herbarium was considerably added to during the year, while the library also was increased. The outdoor work of this garden suffers from the perennial difficulty of retaining trained labour which seeks, after a time, more lucrative employment elsewhere. Although applications for plants continue to increase, sales have practically ceased in accordance with the policy not to compete with private enterprise in the district.

Calcutta Gardens.

591. In the Eden Garden the foot-paths skirting the south of the garden were raised and the surface drainage improved. The garden generally was kept in as good condition as circumstances permit. For, in common with all the Calcutta gardens, it suffers considerably from the pedestrian traffic which pays little regard to the paths provided. In the Dalhousie Square Garden the permanent trees and shrubs are beginning to make an effective display. In the Curzon Garden the trees and shrubs have now grown sufficiently to take away somewhat from the flat appearance of the garden. The enormous concourse that assembled on the occasion of Their Imperial Majesties' visit to Calcutta caused considerable damage to this garden, which, however, had recovered to a great extent by the end of the cold season.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

General.

592. The year was marked by a prolonged rainy season and by an excessive precipitation. On Mungpoo the fall was 141·6 inches, or 18·48 inches above the average. The fall on Munsong was 109·28, or 17·84 inches above the average and the heaviest yet recorded for that plantation.

Plantation.

593. The grand total of cinchona plants of all sorts on both the Mungpoo and Munsong plantations at the end of March 1912 was 2,718,847, showing an increase of 174,030 over the total of the previous year. The dry bark harvest from both plantations was 299,380 lbs., or 201,520 lbs. less than the previous year's yield. The plantation maps were brought up to date.

Outturn.

594. The quantity of bark used in the factory was 853,638 lbs., or 58,113 lbs. less than during 1910-1911. The yield of quinine sulphate amounted to

40,378 lbs. against 39,980 lbs. in the previous year. In addition, 6,004 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge, 1,973 lbs. of residual alkaloids, 33 lbs. of cinchona sulphate and 9 lbs. of other quinine salts, were produced. A second store for half a million pounds of bark, and a shed for fire-wood of 10,000 maunds capacity were erected.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of the Forest Department for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*).—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

595. The chief alterations in area are those due to the administrative changes made on 1st April 1912, by which Bengal gave up 1,717 square miles of reserved forest and 1,987 square miles of protected forest to Bihar and Orissa, and received 2,141 square miles of reserved forest, 54 square miles of protected forest and 4,030 square miles of unclassed State forest from Eastern Bengal and Assam. An area of 50 square miles of protected forest in Backergunge district, which had been omitted last year, was brought on record. Progress in demarcation of forests was slow, and a considerable amount of work remains to be done in Chittagong before the forest boundaries can be considered sufficiently demarcated to prevent encroachment. No surveys by local officers are reported. The revised working-plan for the Sundarbans forests was sanctioned, and that for the reserved forest of the Darjeeling Division was submitted during the year.

Communications and buildings.

596. The permanent new work of the year was the construction of 35 miles of cart-road costing Rs. 7,305, 32 miles of bridle-path costing Rs. 3,143, and 37 miles of foot-path for inspection purposes costing Rs. 1,741. Paths and roads were aligned for subsequent construction in Kurseong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The amount spent on road repairs was Rs. 13,007. The more important buildings constructed were three good rest-houses at Darjeeling, Tista and Buxa, and a bungalow for the Divisional Forest Officer at Rangamati. For permanent new buildings Rs. 34,120 were spent and Rs. 14,978 for repairs.

Forest offences.

597. The forest offences numbered 1,539, the average for the previous three years being 1,320. The increase occurred chiefly in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Buxa, and is due to greater strictness in recording petty offences and to greater vigilance on the part of subordinates. Offences in the Sundarbans decreased owing to tiger scares. Most of the offences were for unauthorised felling and grazing.

Protection from fire.

598. The method employed for guarding the forest from fire was by clearing external fire lines round the areas and dividing the blocks of forest into smaller sections by internal fire lines. The Darjeeling side of the Nepal frontier line was cleared 100 feet wide throughout its entire length. The Chittagong forests are mostly evergreen, and thus naturally protected. The partial protection afforded in previous years in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, when special fire-watchers were paid to watch the burning *jhums* near the forest boundaries, was discontinued.

Protection from cattle.

599. During the year 19 per cent. of reserved forest, 3 per cent. of protected forest and the entire area of unclassed forest were open to grazing. There is no grazing in the Sundarbans forest, and the reserved forest in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is entirely closed to grazing. The number of cattle impounded was 2,008, the average for the previous three years being 1,192. In Tista the increase is said to be due to cattle straying into the forest from tea gardens, and in Jalpaiguri to the ever increasing number of cattle in the district. In Darjeeling the fencing of closed areas adjacent to grazing blocks is largely resorted to and is generally effective.

Financial results.

600. The receipts were Rs. 14,49,441 against Rs. 13,50,914 in 1910, and the total expenditure Rs. 6,69,595 against Rs. 6,57,086. Large receipts from the sale of *sâl* timber were obtained in Kurseong and Buxa. Receipts in the Sundarbans decreased owing to tiger scares. Of the total receipts, 79 per cent. came from major produce and 18 per cent. from minor produce. Of the expenditure, 49 per cent. was incurred on extension, improvement and exploitation of the forest property.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Jute. 601. The estimated acreage under jute rose from 2,423,500 with an outturn of 5,830,830 bales to 2,737,700 with an outturn of 7,247,600 bales. Fifty-seven mills were at work during the year as compared with 56 last year, giving employment to 197,506 operatives. Some jute mills were closed for part of the year and most of the others worked only five days a week for the greater part of the year. The industry is, however, recovering from the over-production from which it suffered two years ago. The demand for jute goods has reasserted itself; prices ruled high during the year: last year's crop, which was probably a record one, was almost completely consumed and the mills are now in a favourable position. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 7,29,55,000 and £3,013,358 and paid-up capital Rs. 6,81.96,200 and £2,843,894 respectively.

Cotton. 602. There were 14 cotton mills at work at the close of the year, the same number as in the previous year. The nominal rupee capital sunk in these mills increased from Rs. 1,66,75,000 to Rs. 1,88,73,572, while the average daily number of operatives employed fell from 10,156 to 9,348. The demand for cotton was good and steady throughout the year but the yarn business was unremunerative to manufacturers.

Tea. 603. The area planted with tea rose to 137,831 acres, and the total quantity manufactured rose from 64,399,358 to 64,653,923 lbs., most of which is black tea. The foreign exports by sea were valued at Rs. 11,63,07,740 which is the highest figure yet recorded.

Coal. 604. The portions of the Raniganj coal-fields which lie in Burdwan, Bankura and Birbhum districts are the only coal-fields in the Presidency. The number of coal mines worked during 1911 was 154, being 2 less than in the previous year. The total output was 3,858,574 tons against 3,737,322 tons raised in 1910. The revival of the industry noticed in the last report continues to be maintained. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines fell from 34,322 to 33,931. Ten coal mines were opened and 14 closed during the year.

Iron. 605. The only district that produced iron was Burdwan. The production was 5.456 tons, valued at £780, compared with 24,387 tons, valued at £3,655, in 1910. The iron and steel works in Howrah and Burdwan were prosperous. The value of the articles produced, for which there was a large demand, rose enormously from Rs. 48,15,088 to Rs. 89,07,914.

Saltpetre and salt. 606. No saltpetre is manufactured in Bengal. The two licensed saltpetre refineries produced 7,329 maunds of refined saltpetre and 806 maunds of salt during the year.

Paper. 607. As in the previous year there were three paper mills in the province. The value of the paper produced by them rose from Rs. 65,19,915 to Rs. 65,55,170.

Silk. 608. The number of silk factories declined to three owing to the importation of cheap foreign silk. Two factories in Midnapore and one in Malda district were closed. The Bengal Silk Company has now only one factory in Birbhum district. Outturn and export decreased and the industry is steadily declining.

Sugar. 609. In the 24-Parganas 23 sugar factories were at work against 22 of the previous year. The outturn decreased from 7,912 maunds to 7,420, but the average selling rate was higher. Similarly, in other districts the total production was smaller but prices ruled high, owing to decreased importations from abroad, and the industry received a temporary fillip.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Miscellaneous Annual Reports of Divisional Commissioners for 1911-1912.]

Presidency. 610. Jute mills worked only five days a week during the greater part of the year. Jute was in good demand and prices ruled high. Demand for the manufactured goods was strong, and mills generally were well supplied with orders. Prospects at the moment are hopeful. There was a fair demand for

the articles produced in the cotton mills. The yarn business was, however, unremunerative to manufacturers. In Nadia hand-woven cloths commanded a good market, and the Mohini Cotton Mill at Kushtia continued to prosper. The manufacture of fine hand-loom woven cloths at Santipur is gradually declining, but the demand for *swadeshi* cloth in Jessore improved to some extent the condition of the weaving classes of that district. The Murshidabad silk industry continues to decline. Two indigo factories worked during the year in Nadia district. Less sugar and molasses were manufactured, but prices ruled higher and the Kotchandpur factories were more prosperous. The industry is, however, still on the decline owing to the competition of imported sugar. The ivory-carving industry of Murshidabad is steadily declining. A new industry of drying and curing *chingri* fish is being carried on at several places in Bagerhat and Satkhira subdivisions.

611. The outturn of silk in Burdwan district increased in value from Rs. 1,76,125 to Rs. 3,48,125 owing to the increased demand. In Birbhum only one out of the three silk factories belonging to the Bengal Silk Company worked throughout the year. The two silk factories in Ghatal subdivision were closed owing to the importation of cheap foreign silk. A weaving school was opened in the town of Bankura during the year, and is said to have been of benefit to the weaving class. The value of the cotton cloths produced in Burdwan increased, but the importation of cheap cotton cloths is affecting the production of the cloths of Chandrakona, which once commanded an extensive sale. The manufacture of coloured cloths in Arambagh subdivision is declining owing to a change in the taste of the people. The business of the cotton and jute mills in Howrah declined somewhat owing to the high price of the raw material. The number of lac factories decreased from 33 to 26. The value of the iron-work produced in Burdwan increased enormously from Rs. 54,832 to Rs. 31,49,527. Paper mills increased their business owing to the larger demand and sale. In Howrah a large and up-to-date flour mill was built by Messrs. Shaw, Wallace & Co., and a new cotton mill (a Marwari concern) started work in Serampore. The oil mills at Howrah worked satisfactorily, while there was a falling off in the manufacture of flour and lime. Burdwan.

612. The weaving industry continued in the old groove. The impetus imparted by the *swadeshi* movement has died away and the mill-made cloth held the market. The Dacca Tannery works ceased to exist, while the iron factory at Narayanganj continued in a precarious condition. The manufacture of soap, which was the outcome of the *swadeshi* movement, exhibited a further decline. The manufactures of the Mymensingh district showed no notable development. The *Swadeshi* Shoe Company of Barisal closed its brief career during the year. The industries in buttons, nibs, pen-holders and food for infants, which sprang into existence in Backergunge and Faridpur districts with the boycott movement, show signs of disappearing. Large quantities of Faridpur molasses were exported, but there was no expansion of the business. The Dacca conch-shell industry continued to flourish. The number of factories at work was 56 (of which 50 were jute-presses) against 67 in 1910. Dacca.

613. The silk industry in Rajshahi is on the decline. The quantity of silk manufactured during the year was 22,402 lbs. against 43,251 in 1910. The decrease is due partly to disease among silk-worms and partly to the fact that cultivators have given up rearing cocoons as less profitable than the cultivation of jute. A silk factory in Malda closed during the year. The tobacco factory started in Rangpur in 1908-1909 paid a dividend of 2½ per cent., but the success of the enterprise is not yet assured. The cotton cloth manufactured by hand-loom weavers in Pabna was in great demand. The Tanning Company started in Pabna in 1910 has not yet made any appreciable progress. There is a great demand for the articles manufactured by the two hosiery companies in Pabna. Fourteen factories employing 2,456 operatives worked during the year. Of these, 11 were jute-presses. Rajshahi.

614. There were 14 aerated water manufactories in Chittagong district against 8 in the previous year. The boring for oil in the Sitakund range still continues, but so far without result. The Nityananda Cotton Factory and the Shalimar Iron-works worked throughout the year. The rice-mill at Chittagong was not worked, paddy being exported unhusked. The oil-mill at Chittagong.

Chandpur produced 19,000 maunds of oil against 17,500 in 1910. The home manufacture of cotton cloth in most districts is declining. Thirteen jute-presses and two tinning works were in existence during the year.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Reports of the Divisional Commissioners and the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1911. Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industries.]

Number of factories and system of work.

615. The number of factories at the close of the year was 320. Ten new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, viz., two in Calcutta, three in the 24-Parganas, one in Hooghly, one in Dacca, one in Faridpur, one in Chittagong and one in Rajshahi; while 21 factories were excluded from it, viz., one in the 24-Parganas, three in Howrah, one in Midnapore, eight in Dacca, three in Faridpur, two in Mymensingh, two in Chittagong and one in Rajshahi. In 125 factories work was carried on by means of shifts or sets, in 150 with midday stoppages, in 11 under a system of shifts and midday stoppages and in 27 with other arrangements. The total average daily number of operatives employed was 303,983. A new industry was started for the manufacture and sale of oxygen gas on the premises of the Linde Ice Company. The gas is used for the purpose of carrying out boiler and other repairs by a process of welding under intense heat which is known as the oxy-acetyline process, and this is the only factory in India manufacturing the gas for this purpose. The Calcutta Gas Works also have completed a very fine retort-house, having imported plant at a cost of Rs. 4,50,000. This is believed to be the most up-to-date method of manufacturing gas to be seen in any country.

Inspections.

616. Inspections were made in eight factories once, in 39 factories twice, in 66 factories three times and in 198 factories more than three times. Only nine factories were not inspected during the year. Inspections in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions were considerably facilitated by the use of motor-cars with which both the Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector of Factories have provided themselves, and of the steam-launch *Esmé*. Steps were, as a rule, taken by managers to remedy defects brought to their notice by inspecting officers.

Sanitary arrangements and quarters for operatives.

617. The sanitary arrangements of the factories were, on the whole, satisfactory. In some factories defects were brought to light, but none were of a very serious character, with the exception of one or two cases mentioned by the Commissioner of Burdwan. He reports that the latrines of the National, the Belvedere and the Delta Jute Mills in the Howrah district discharge into the Hooghly, and the night-soil from those of the Lawrence Jute Mills is thrown into the same river. The managers concerned have been asked to put a stop to these undesirable practices, and the matter is still under their consideration. In the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions most of the larger factories and nearly all mills are now provided with their own workers' quarters. Most of them are substantial *pucca* buildings, and the sanitary arrangements are, on the whole, good.

Water-supply.

618. The water-supply in all the factories of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions was adequate and good.

General health of the operatives.

619. The general health of the operatives was good throughout the province. The year has been remarkable for the entire absence of serious sickness in epidemic form among the workers in factories, which is attributed to the greater attention paid to sanitation. Vaccination was carried out in many factories in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. No case of resistance to vaccination was reported.

Wages and general condition of the operatives.

620. There was no marked change in the rates of wages during the year. Owing to the favourable prices of food-grains, the condition of the operatives was good on the whole.

Employment of women and children.

621. The rules regarding the employment of women and children appear to have been carefully observed throughout the province: 12,976 children were examined by the Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Barrackpore, during the year, of whom 2,334 were rejected as being under age. In certain instances some of those rejected were allowed to continue to work, and the

Chief Inspector found it necessary to apply for the prosecution of managers in some cases. Great credit is due to Captain Gillmon for his work in certifying children, and in detecting the re-employment of children previously rejected by him.

Fencing of machinery.

622. Machinery in mills and factories is reported to be well fenced throughout the province. The adoption of the automatic stop-gear and the extended feed-tables for the jute-softeners, which was made compulsory in 1910, has been amply justified, as not a single accident has since been recorded at the tables fitted with this gear.

Accidents.

623. The total number of accidents during the year was 982, of which 38 were fatal, 403 serious and 541 minor. There was a decrease in the number of accidents, which, as before, are mostly due to avoidable carelessness on the part of operatives.

Prosecutions.

624. There were 13 prosecutions under the Act in the 24-Parganas district, of which nine were successful, and three in the district of Hooghly, of which two were successful. No prosecutions are reported from the other districts of the province.

Fires.

625. A serious fire broke out in the Empress of India Cotton Mills at Budge Budge, and the entire factory was burnt down on the night of the 1st September 1911. Three fires also broke out in the factories in the Howrah district. In two of them, viz., the Bharat Abhyudai Cotton Mills and the Ghusury Rope Works, the damage done was small. The third case, which occurred at the West Patent Press at Salkia and was due to spontaneous combustion, was only extinguished with the help of the Calcutta and Howrah Fire-brigades. No lives were lost, but the total loss of property was estimated at Rs. 1,25,000.

Strikes.

626. There were three strikes in the district of Howrah. In June 1911, the operatives of the Central Jute Mill struck work, as the mill-owners decided to reduce the working hours, thus affecting the earnings of the workers. The mill was only closed from the 20th June to the 4th July, when the old hours were reverted to and the men returned to work. The second strike occurred at the Belvedere Jute Mills and lasted for a day. It was the outcome of an attempt to make the operatives work extra hours without any additional pay. The third strike occurred at the Empress of India Jute Press. It was due to the delay on the part of the contractor in paying the workmen, and ended as soon as the payment was made. Prompt action was taken in all cases to prevent a breach of the peace.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal and of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911-1912—Annual statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency—Annual statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries—Annual statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India—Review of the Trade of India—Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Reports on the Maritime Trade of Bengal and of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911-1912.]

Foreign trade. Merchandise.

627. The total trade of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted amounts to Rs. 177 crores, an increase of Rs. 17 crores on the figures for the previous year. This figure surpasses that of all previous years. The total foreign trade amounted to Rs. 154 crores, imports showing an increase of nearly Rs. 7 crores and exports of Rs. 8½ crores. The extent to which the foreign trade of the Presidency is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	Presidency.	Calcutta.	Eastern Bengal ports.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise—			
Imports	52,62,33	51,97,77	64,56
Exports	91,21,39	85,87,17	5,34,22

The trade of the Eastern Bengal ports is made up chiefly of exports of tea and raw jute. Almost the whole of the trade is centred in Chittagong. Barisal was declared a port under the Sea Customs Act during the year.

Treasure.

628. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 843 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 504 lakhs in 1910-1911. Of this, Rs. 646 lakhs were of gold, most of which came from Australia. On the other hand exports fell from Rs. 45·14 lakhs to Rs. 10·10 lakhs, of which Rs. 8½ lakhs were of silver. State transactions on treasure during the year amounted to only Rs. 405 in silver With the exception of gold valued at Rs. 1,84,323 imported into Chittagong, all the treasure imported into and exported from Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta.

629. The following table shows the comparative importance of articles imported into Calcutta, excluding Government stores (*figures are in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1909-1910.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods ...	20,20,80	20,53,87	22,74,01
Metals	5,51,16	5,63,60	6,03,98
Sugar	5,02,23	5,91,95	5,20,57
Mineral oils ...	1,21.28	1,27,93	1,75,52
Machinery and mill work	1,82,02	1,90,02	1,51,93
Railway plant and rolling stock ...	2,12,64	1,16,54	1,32,72
Hardware and cutlery	96,87	1,10,08	1,26,19
Woollen goods ...	52,67	75,45	88,61
Drugs, medicines, chemicals and opium ...	64,22	70,32	79,76
Apparel	55,03	66,85	80,07
Salt	52,28	53,38	64,81
Spices	52,84	71,50	66,64
Liquors	59,80	59,12	62,45
Tobacco	40,79	21,69	23,45

Cotton goods.

630. The imports of cotton goods during 1911-12 showed a substantial increase both in quantity and value, the total value being 11 per cent. more than in the previous year and representing over 43 per cent. of the value of total imports. A marked recovery took place under the head of twist and yarn, imports being 35 per cent. in excess of those of 1910-1911. Larger shipments came from Holland. The trade in piece-goods revived considerably and increased in value by Rs. 2 crores. Grey goods and white goods increased by 10 and 18 per cent. respectively over the figures for 1910-1911. Coloured goods declined by 4 per cent., and other cotton fabrics showed a slight advance. The United Kingdom contributed 95 per cent. of the value of the total imports of cotton goods, followed by Japan, Holland and Germany. The figures for Japan alone show some falling off. On the whole the year was satisfactory both for the Lancashire industry and for the Indian dealers.

Metals.

631. The volume of metals imported increased by 9 per cent., the aggregate of over Rs. 6 crores being higher than in any previous year. Imports of unwrought copper showed a large decline owing to the higher prices ruling during the year. Japan supplied 94 per cent. of the total. Imports of wrought copper showed a substantial increase as a result of the increased demand for electrical purposes. Imports of pig iron continued to decline probably owing to the increasing output from the Barakar Iron Works.

Of the wrought iron and steel imported, the United Kingdom sent 72 per cent. and Germany 15 per cent. Imports were larger than in any previous year, mainly owing to the large increase in the imports of iron and steel galvanized sheets and plates which were valued at Rs. 230 lakhs. Corrugated iron is now being largely used by the people in preference to thatch for house-roofing. The average price of tin was higher during the year and the value of the imports has risen, though the quantity shows a slight falling off.

Sugar.

632. There was a decrease of Rs. 68 lakhs in the import of sugar, due to the increased output of Indian sugar and to the high prices which prevailed in the United Kingdom and the Continent in consequence of a deficiency in the crops in Europe. Large quantities of Java sugar which would otherwise have been available for the Indian market were diverted to Europe, and no less than 88,823 tons of this sugar were actually re-exported from India during the year, of which 47,800 tons, valued at over Rs. 88 lakhs, were despatched from Calcutta.

The quantity of refined sugar imported fell by 18 per cent. No less than 97 per cent. of the total imports came from Java, imports from Mauritius falling from 16,000 to 4,000 tons. Imports of both unrefined sugar and molasses showed a falling off: practically the whole of the former and 95 per cent. of the latter came from Java.

Mineral oils.

633. Imports of kerosine oil rose by 93 per cent. from 16½ to 31¾ million gallons, the increase in value being 86 per cent. Of this enormous increase, 69 per cent. came from the United States and 30 per cent. from Borneo, due to the rate war between the Standard Oil Company and the Royal Dutch Shell Transport Combination. Freights were scarce and there was a difficulty in meeting the demand for tank steamers, which perhaps accounts for the fact that 23 per cent. of the total landings consisted of case oil. The quantity of Burma oil imported fell off by 7 per cent.

Machinery and mill-work.

634. Imports fell to Rs. 152 lakhs, this being the lowest figure for many years. The decline was mainly due to fewer imports of jute mill machinery. There was also a slight decline in electrical machinery, but an increase in the case of that for cotton mills and for tea factories. Of the total imports, 87 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 8 per cent. from Germany and 3 per cent. from the United States.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

635. There was a further decrease of 5 per cent. from Rs. 225 to Rs. 215 lakhs of material imported into Calcutta. Of this, Rs. 83 lakhs were imported on Government account. The falling off is due entirely to a decrease of Rs. 15 lakhs in the value of engines and tenders, and Rs. 24 lakhs in the value of rails, etc., imported for Government lines. Of the total, 94 per cent. came from the United Kingdom.

Hardware and cutlery.

636. There was an increase of 14 per cent. in value to Rs. 126 lakhs. This head includes many miscellaneous items, one of the largest of which is lamp-ware, of which about Rs. 19 lakhs were imported. The United Kingdom sent 63 per cent. and Germany 17 per cent. of the imports.

Woollen goods.

637. There was a substantial increase of 17 per cent. in the value of the woollen goods imported, the value of Rs. 88·6 lakhs being the highest since 1904-1905. About half of the imports consists of piece-goods (Rs. 44 lakhs), of which the United Kingdom supplies Rs. 34 lakhs. The greatest increase occurred in the case of shawls, which rose in value from Rs. 18·2 to Rs. 30·6 lakhs, of which Rs. 23 lakhs came from Germany and Rs. 6 lakhs from the United Kingdom. Large orders for shawls were placed in expectation of an increased demand during the visit of Their Imperial Majesties.

Apparel.

638. An increase of 21 per cent. in the imports of apparel in 1910-1911 was followed by a further increase of 20 per cent. this year, the value reaching Rs. 80 lakhs. The largest contributor was the United Kingdom, which supplied Rs. 49 lakhs of the total, while Germany, Austria-Hungary and Japan with about Rs. 11, Rs. 10 and Rs. 4 lakhs, respectively, also showed substantial increases. Practically the whole of the boots and shoes, valued at Rs. 15 lakhs, came from the United Kingdom. There was some set-back in the demand for these articles about the time of the *swadeshi* agitation, but the import has been steadily increasing and has now risen to 580,000 pairs.

Salt.

639. The total importations of salt during the year were, with the exception of the abnormal year 1908-1909, the largest made during the last quinquennium. The conditions were generally favourable to high market rates, as freight continued high and stocks were low. The increased importations were, except in the case of Bombay and Massowah, fairly proportionately divided among the various kinds of salt. No salt came from Madras.

Spices.

640. Imports of spices were valued at Rs. 66·6 lakhs, consisting of betel-nuts (Rs. 56 lakhs), cloves (Rs. 4·3 lakhs), pepper (Rs. 3·8 lakhs) and other less important spices. The trade in betel-nuts, which come mainly from the Straits, and pepper is largely dependent on the Indian crop: in 1911 the betel-nut crop is said to have been abundant. Practically the whole of the foreign pepper (nearly 2 million lbs.) came from the Straits.

Liquors.

641. There was some increase in the import of light German beer, which seems to be growing in popularity at the expense of British beer. There was a general increase in the quantity of wines (except claret), whisky, liquors, etc., imported, larger orders having been doubtless placed in anticipation of the Delhi Durbar.

Chemicals, drugs and medicines.

642. Imports established another record, the value rising by 13 per cent. to Rs. 79 lakhs. The United Kingdom again supplied about three-quarters of the total value. Patent medicines fell off from Rs. 10 to Rs. 9 lakhs, due, it is said, to an increase in the local manufacture of such preparations. The popularity of quinine is growing rapidly and large importations of cinchona-bark and quinine tabloids were made, especially by Government. The chief imports from Europe are—sulphur from Italy (Rs. 3·4 lakhs) and calcium carbide from Norway (Rs. 79,000).

Tobacco.

643. The new duties were reduced by about one-third on the 8th March 1911, but without any apparent effect on the tendency of the trade. The quantity of unmanufactured leaf showed a further fall from 163,503 lbs. to 43,225 lbs., and the import of cigarettes a further decline from 154 millions to 128 millions. The decline in numbers was accompanied by a rise in value from Rs. 14·7 to Rs. 15·6 lakhs, and therefore appears to have been confined to the cheaper varieties. Foreign cheap cigarettes are being displaced by the *swadeshi* article. The United Kingdom sent Rs. 13·6 lakhs and Egypt Re. 1·8 lakhs. Imports of cigars showed some increase; about half of the amount consisted of Dutch cigars.

Eastern Bengal ports.

644. The total foreign import trade (merchandise) of the Eastern Bengal ports amounted to Rs. 64·56 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 54·58 and Rs. 55·66 lakhs, respectively, in 1910-1911 and 1909-1910. The chief imports were metals (Rs. 23·58 lakhs), railway materials (Rs. 10·92 lakhs), tea chests (Rs. 7·84 lakhs) and cotton goods (Rs. 6·92 lakhs). The largest increases were in railway materials, cotton goods and salt.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

645. The following statement shows how the import trade (merchandise) of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed :—

	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.
	Rs. Lakhs.	Rs. Lakhs.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	32,75·74	35,96·45	67·48	69·19
Other British Possessions	2,24·95	1,89·38	4·63	3·64
Java	5,39·13	5,04·90	11·11	9·71
Germany	2,34·76	2,52·04	4·84	4·85
United States ...	1,14·58	1,65·27	2·36	3·18
Japan	1,15·12	1,02·88	2·37	1·98
Austria-Hungary ...	66·24	70·59	1·37	1·36
Belgium	71·23	66·44	1·47	1·28
Total Imports ...	48,54·07	51,97·77	100	100

NOTE.—The foreign trade with different countries is shown for the first time according to countries of consignments for imports and countries of final destination for exports. The figures, therefore, standing against each country for 1910-1911 do not correspond in every case with those shown in the report for that year.

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles exported from Calcutta.

646. The following table gives the values of the more important products in the export trade of Calcutta, and shows their comparative importance (*figures are in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1909-1910.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute, raw ...	13,11,00	13,61,43	19,99,32
Jute, manufactured ...	17,04,31	16,92,32	15,92,72
Tea	8,08,21	8,45,02	8,85,29
Grain and pulses ...	5,54,35	6,93,83	10,50,43
Oil-seeds ...	3,46,63	6,07,92	7,35,32
Hides and skins ...	6,98,61	6,85,15	7,26,81
Opium	6,85,76	10,61,40	6,71,48
Lac	2,76,18	2,10,90	1,96,19
Cotton, raw ...	1,22,00	94,84	81,55
Coal and coke ...	67,07	76,92	76,90
Hemp, raw ...	23,69	28,33	36,72
Indigo	24,42	24,96	30,57
Silk, raw ...	27,71	27,56	18,14

Jute, raw and manufactured.

647. During the year a marked improvement in the jute trade set in, and the value of the jute shipped has only been exceeded in 1906-1907, when the price of raw jute attained an abnormally high level. Jute now represents 42 per cent. of the foreign export trade and 26 per cent. of the total foreign trade of Calcutta. Shipments of raw jute increased in volume by 27 per cent. and in value by 47 per cent.; there was a contraction in the shipments of gunny bags and gunny cloth by 20 and 9 per cent., respectively, but, owing to higher prices, the value of the former fell off by 12 per cent. only, while that of the latter remained practically the same. From the commencement of 1912, an export duty of 2 annas per bale of 400 lbs. on raw jute and 12 annas per ton on manufactured jute exported from Calcutta to both Indian and foreign ports was imposed for the benefit of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The United Kingdom took 41 per cent. of the total exports of raw jute, the shipments being 47 per cent. in excess of those of 1910-1911. Dundee took 42 per cent. more than in the previous year. Germany increased her demand by 16 per cent. The United States took 65 per cent. more, and now absorbs 13 per cent. of the total exports.

The local industry was at the beginning of the year suffering from overproduction, and short time continued throughout the year. By reducing the number of working days to four weekly for four months, the trade succeeded in placing prices on a remunerative level. The general contraction in the outturn of gunny bags and gunny cloth was reflected in the export figures. The decrease in value during the first 9 months was 9 per cent., but the figures for the last 3 months showed a rise of 8 per cent. The value of gunny bags exported declined from Rs. 8,51·49 lakhs to Rs. 7,51·56 lakhs, and that of gunny cloth fell from Rs. 8,34·31 lakhs to Rs. 8,33·92 lakhs. The United States is still by far the best customer, taking 39 per cent. of the total value exported. Despatches to China, exclusive of Hongkong, rose from Rs. 26 to Rs. 37 lakhs.

Grains and pulses.

648. In India the season was one of bumper harvests and busy trade. Crops in Europe were curtailed by exceptional drought, while in the far East there was a great shortage in rice, the staple food-crop. The result is reflected in the figures of the export trade, which show a rise in total volume of 70 per cent. to over a million ton and in value of 51 per cent. to Rs. 10·5 crores. The rice crop of 1910-1911 was an excellent one, and in 1911-1912 the estimated yield for Bengal, though less than that of 1910-1911, was still 23 per cent. over the average for the last five years. The result was that exports of rice by sea from Calcutta rose by 39 per cent. in quantity to 475,000 tons, valued at Rs. 6 crores. Ceylon as usual was the largest customer, taking 43 per cent. of the whole: Mauritius followed with 10 per cent. This increased demand for Bengal rice was stimulated by the diversion of

Burma rice to meet the demand caused by the scarcity in the far East. Shipments of wheat to the United Kingdom fell off by 31 per cent., but this decline was set off by larger shipments to France, which took no wheat from Calcutta in 1910-1911. Large exports of barley and maize form a new feature in the export trade of Calcutta. Exports of gram increased by 42 per cent. in quantity, of which the United Kingdom took half, while exports of other pulses, chiefly *dâl* and peas, nearly trebled.

Tea. 649. There was a further increase (2 per cent. in quantity and 5 per cent. in value) in the shipments of tea from Calcutta, constituting another record. Exports to the United Kingdom expanded by 7 per cent. in quantity and by 10 per cent. in value. There was a considerable decline in the shipments to outside markets, mainly due to a falling off in the quantity consigned to Russia, who is India's best customer after the United Kingdom. Shipments to China fell by 38 per cent., as a result of the disturbed condition in that country. To the United States and Canada combined there was an increase of 27 per cent. The exports to European countries other than Russia, though still small, show a satisfactory rise.

Oil-seeds. 650. Crops were again excellent, and the total value of the exports passed the previous year's record by 21 per cent. The shipments of linseed increased from 227,000 tons to 279,000 tons. They constitute more than 91 per cent. of the total exports of seeds from Calcutta, and are responsible for the increase in the total figures, as other varieties show a decline. The United Kingdom took about a half and the United States a quarter of the exports. There was a large falling off of 63 per cent. in the case of rapeseed. A considerable quantity is consumed by the numerous oil-mills in and around Calcutta, and the exports merely represent the surplus not required for local consumption: of the quantity sent away, nearly three quarters went to France.

Hides and skins. 651. The number and value of the hides shipped was substantially larger than it has been in any year since the famine year of 1906-1907: the average value per hide also continued to rise. With the exception of France and Italy all countries took larger quantities. Germany continues to be the best customer with 41 per cent. of the shipments, followed by Austria-Hungary, Italy and Spain. Of the skins exported, 92 per cent. were goat skins. As usual the bulk of these went to the United States.

Opium. 652. The arrangements for the grant of certificates for chests for China were modified during the year, and with effect from July a limited number of chests only was sold in each month as certificated. Some reduction was also made in the quantities sold for the other markets. In consequence the number of chests exported from Calcutta fell by 12,959, the value falling by Rs. 3·9 crores.

Lac. 653. A contraction in the quantities of lac exported to the United Kingdom and the United States was to some extent set off by larger shipments to Germany and elsewhere. The value, however, continued to fall.

Cotton, raw. 654. In America there was the largest cotton crop on record. The demand for Indian cotton consequently fell, and shipments from Calcutta, which form a very small proportion of the total Indian exports, showed a similar decline. Unfavourable agricultural conditions contributed to this result; with the exception of Germany all the principal countries took less from Calcutta, the demand of Japan in particular falling largely.

Coal and coke. 655. Shipments for foreign ports fell by 2 per cent. to 871,000 tons. The output in Bengal increased during the year, but a general shortage of wagons helped to curtail the supply of coal in Calcutta for shipments. The trade was also embarrassed by scarcity of tonnage, and record prices were paid for coal freights. The coal strike in the United Kingdom, however, resulted in an increase in the shipments of bunker coal. In spite of the general decline, shipments to Ceylon showed a considerable increase.

Indigo. 656. There was a temporary recovery in the quantities exported after several years of almost continuous decline. The total shipments from British India increased by 13 per cent., while those from Calcutta showed an increase of 32 per cent. in quantity and 23 per cent. in value. The United Kingdom took nearly twice as much as in the previous year, and most of the other countries which draw on India for their indigo also took more.

657. Exports of raw silk have been declining for several years, and 1911-1912 saw a further fall of 21 per cent. in quantity and 34 per cent. in value. It is, however, stated that the Delhi Durbar created a considerable demand for Indian silk and that better prices were obtainable in India than in Europe. The trade has been adversely affected by the great deterioration of silk as well as by keen competition on the part of China and Japan. Silk, raw.

Of 761,634 lbs. exported, France took 625,356 lbs.

658. The value of the merchandise exported was nearly Rs. 534 lakhs, consisting almost entirely of tea (Rs. 278 lakhs) and raw jute (Rs. 249 lakhs). The total exports were valued at Rs. 450 lakhs and Rs. 434 lakhs in 1910-1911 and 1909-1910, respectively. Eastern Bengal ports.

659. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal countries in the export trade (merchandise) of Calcutta :— Export trade with other countries.

	1910-1911. Lakhs. Rs.	1911-1912. Lakhs. Rs.	1910-1911. Per cent.	1911-1912. Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	18,90·27	24,65·59	24·28	28·71
Other British Possessions	18,17·76	15,25·08	23·35	17·76
United States ...	11,23·51	13,09·71	14·43	15·25
Germany	7,24·08	9,69·89	9·3	11·3
France	3,48·22	3,31·21	4·47	3·86
Austria-Hungary ...	2,16·91	2,97·06	2·79	3·46
South America ...	2,49·34	2,39·47	3·2	2·79
Belgium	1,50·30	1,91·41	1·93	2·23
China Treaty Ports ...	2,47·61	1,77·85	3·18	2·07
Italy	1,96·47	1,74·98	2·52	2·04
Total Exports ...	77,84·79	85,87·17	100	100

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1911-1912.]

660. The figures in these paragraphs relate to the trans-frontier trade of Bengal as constituted on 1st April 1912. In the reconstitution of the province, the frontier districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea, Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Darbhanga have been transferred to the newly constituted province of Bihar and Orissa, while the district of Jalpaiguri has been added to Bengal. Direct comparison of the trade figures for the year with those of previous years would therefore be misleading. The total value of Bengal's trade with the adjacent States of Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan in the year ending 31st March 1912 amounted to Rs. 146·8 lakhs. The value stated is exclusive of the movements of treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective. Change of provincial frontiers.

661. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal, Rs. 76 lakhs, or 65 per cent. represents the trade from Nepal, 18 per cent. from Tibet, 16 per cent. from Sikkim and the remaining 1 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—from Nepal, living animals Rs. 25·89 lakhs, hides of cattle Rs. 9 lakhs, provisions, chiefly *ghi*, Rs. 6·57 lakhs, fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 2·92 lakhs, spices Re. 1·42 lakhs and horns Re. 1·34 lakhs ; from Tibet, raw wool, which constitutes the main staple of import, 51,075 maunds valued at Rs. 9·40 lakhs, skins of small animals Re. 1·38 lakhs, musk and yak's tails one lakh of rupees. The leading articles of import from Sikkim were animals Rs. 3·27 lakhs, grain and pulse Rs. 2·33 lakhs, spices Re. 1·93 lakhs, fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 87,000 and *ghi* Rs. 86,000 ; and from Bhutan living animals valued at Rs. 46,000. Imports into Bengal.

662. Of the total exports, Rs. 70 lakhs, or 68 per cent., went to Nepal, 16 per cent. to Tibet, 15 per cent. to Sikkim and the remaining 1 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Nepal consist mainly of cotton manufactures Rs. 22·47 lakhs, oils, chiefly kerosine, Rs. 5·35 lakhs, metals and manufactures of metals Rs. 4·39 lakhs, sugar Rs. 3·9 lakhs, grain and pulse, chiefly rice, Rs. 3·58 lakhs, tobacco Rs. 2·68 lakhs, spices Rs. 2·44 lakhs and Exports from Bengal.

salt Re. 1·18 lakhs; to Tibet, cotton piece-goods Rs. 4·68 lakhs, woollen manufactures (piece-goods) Rs. 1·27 lakhs and tobacco Rs. 90,000; to Sikkim, cotton manufactures Rs. 2·93 lakhs, grain and pulse, chiefly rice, Re. 1·67 lakhs and oils Re. 1 lakh. The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods and spices valued at Rs. 51,000.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Reports on the Maritime Trade of Bengal and of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911-1912.]

Coasting trade.

663. The total value of the trade of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted amounted to over 23 crores, an increase of 2½ crores and a satisfactory improvement after the decline experienced in 1909-1910 and 1910-1911. In Calcutta, to which over 92 per cent. of the trade belongs, a decrease in imports of private merchandise from 7·79 crores to 7·61 crores was more than set off by an improvement in exports from 8·96 to 9·37 crores. As in previous years, nearly half the trade was with Burma. The continuance of favourable agricultural conditions in Bengal was responsible for the reduced value of the import trade. Purchases of rice and mineral oils from Burma declined, while imports showing increased values were earth-nuts from Madras Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs, and raw cotton Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 63 lakhs (Burma sending Rs. 28 lakhs, or double the value despatched in 1910-1911). Most of the principal articles exported declined in value, and the increase in the total figure from about Rs. 12 crores to Rs. 14 crores was almost entirely due to the heavy shipments of rice and paddy, chiefly to Madras and Burma. There was a small increase in exports of tea, but owing to high freights and dear prices exports of coal fell in quantity by nearly 10 per cent.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in 1911-1912.]

Rail and River-borne trade.

664. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces.	Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1911-1912	Mds.	50,888,548	177,031,450	33,294,670	137,227,149
	Rs.	40,85,54,668	59,00,36,365	28,82,70,727	44,80,68,842

Of the total value of the imports into Bengal, including Calcutta (Rs. 59 crores), 38 per cent. represents the trade from Bihar and Orissa, 27 per cent. from Assam, 23 per cent. from the United Provinces, 4 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 2 per cent. from the Punjab, and the remaining 6 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 41 crores), 41 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 29 per cent. to the United Provinces, 13 per cent. to Assam, 9 per cent. to the Punjab, 3 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar and the remaining 5 per cent. to other provinces.

The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were from Bihar and Orissa, oilseeds (Rs. 4·1 crores), Railway materials (Rs. 3 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2·9 crores), coal and coke (Rs. 2·2 crores), jute (Rs. 1·7 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·3 crores) and lac (Rs. 1 crore); from Assam, tea (Rs. 9·7 crores) and silk raw (Rs. 3 crores); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, grain and pulse (Rs. 4 crores), oilseeds (Rs. 3·5 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1·5 crores), opium (Rs. 99 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 86 lakhs), lac (Rs. 61 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 77 lakhs), wheat (Rs. 36 lakhs), *ghi* (Rs. 16 lakhs), and from the Punjab, rape and mustard seeds (Rs. 46 lakhs) and hides and skins (Rs. 39 lakhs).

The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa comprise mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 7·8 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·1 crores), sugar (Re. 1 crore), oils, chiefly kerosine (Re. 1 crore), salt (Rs. 80 lakhs), gunny bags (Rs. 53 lakhs) and spices (Rs. 42 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 4·5 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Re. 1·6 crores), sugar (Re. 1·2 crores), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 81 lakhs), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 64 lakhs) and kerosine oil (Rs. 60 lakhs); to Assam, cotton manufactures (Re. 1·5 crores) and metals and manufactures of metals (Re. 1 crore); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Re. 1 crore), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 80 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 56 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 10 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consist principally of gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 26 lakhs), cotton piece-goods, foreign (Rs. 18 lakhs), kerosine oil (Rs. 15 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 13 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Reorganization of establishment.

665. The question of improving the prospects of Provincial Engineers has been for a long time under the consideration of Government. Under the reorganization scheme of 1908, pay on a time-scale was substituted for the graded system of promotion, and the Imperial and Provincial Engineer establishments were completely separated and placed in two distinct cadres, with different rates of promotion to executive rank. These conditions of service were not, however, acceptable to the majority of the Provincial Engineers, who attached greater importance to being borne on a combined list with their Imperial *confrères* than was supposed. With the sanction of the Secretary of State, the Government of India accordingly ordered the abolition, with effect from the 1st April 1911, of the dual cadre, the equalization of the period for promotion to executive rank in the two services, and an increase of pay to Provincial officers.

Architects.

666. Under the present system, complete sets of working drawings are sent out with the sanctioned estimates in the case of every important new Government building. This has thrown a good deal of work on the Consulting Architect, and an Assistant Architect has been appointed who will also carry on the office work during his absence, and sometimes also inspect for him.

Language examinations.

667. The language examinations of the Public Works Department officers have hitherto been conducted by the Military authorities. They are now conducted by the Central Examination Committee at the same time as the departmental examination of Assistant Magistrates. The professional examination of Assistant Engineers is, however, still held under the old rules.

Public Works Department establishment.

668. Owing to the redistribution of territories on 1st April 1912, Bengal received back the Northern and Eastern Bengal districts from the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and gave up to the new province of Bihar and Orissa almost all the irrigation works in old Bengal, and two out of the three Canal Revenue Divisions. The Public Works Department establishment at present consists of one Chief Engineer, one Deputy Secretary, who is also Superintending Engineer of a Public Works Circle, two Under-Secretaries, one Assistant Secretary, five Superintending Engineers, 42 Executive and Assistant Engineers (including the two Under-Secretaries), 210 Upper and Lower Subordinates and the following special appointments :—

(*a*) a Sanitary Engineer,	(*d*) a Junior Electrical Inspector,
(*b*) an Electrical Engineer,	(*e*) a Consulting Architect,
(*c*) an Electrical Inspector,	(*f*) a Plumbing Expert,

in place of two Chief Engineers, two Under-Secretaries, one Assistant Secretary, seven Superintending Engineers, 66 Executive and Assistant Engineers (including the two Under-Secretaries), 375 Upper and Lower

Subordinates and the special appointments referred to above which existed prior to 1st April 1912. The number of Public Works Circles and Divisions (excluding Canal Revenue Divisions) has been reduced from 7 and 21 to 5 and 16 respectively.

Buildings.

Expenditure.

669. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 82,82,476, of which Rs. 65,46,349 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 17,36,127 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 65,46,349 incurred by the Public Works Department, Rs. 16,97,662 were spent on Imperial works, Rs. 45,56,949 on Provincial works and Rs. 2,91,738 on local and contribution works.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Civil Works Customs.

670. Several structural additions and alterations were carried out, at a cost of Rs. 9,432, to some of the vacant rooms of the new opium godown in the compound of the Custom House at Calcutta to provide accommodation for the offices of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Preventive Service of the Customs Department.

Salt.

671. The construction of salt golas at Chittagong was nearly completed.

Post and Telegraph Offices.

672. Combined Post and Telegraph offices were constructed at Howrah, Asansol, Tamluk, Gaibanda and Sirajganj. A Post and Telegraph office at Jhenidah and additions and alterations to the Post and Telegraph office at Barisal were in progress. Materials were collected for Post and Telegraph offices at Alipur Duars and Malda, and for quarters for clerks and signallers attached to the Nagrakata Post-office. The improvements to the Presidency Postmaster's quarters commenced last year were completed. Quarters for the clerks and signallers of the Rangpur Post-office were under construction. The extension of the Central Telegraph Office at Calcutta was taken in hand. Two double-storeyed buildings were erected at the Telegraph store-yard, Dhullunda, also three corrugated-iron sheds, viz. (1) a foundry shed, (2) a galvanizing shed and (3) a band fitting shed.

Secretariat Buildings.

673. The Imperial Secretariat building in Council House Street, Calcutta, for the accommodation of the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India was completed.

Currency Office.

674. As a precaution against an outbreak of fire, pipes with necessary hydrants were laid on the floors of the Paper Currency buildings.

Surveyor General's Office.

675. A wing was added at the west end of the Mathematical Instrument Office, Calcutta.

Printing.

676. The following buildings in connection with the new Press buildings in Dhurrumtolla Street, Calcutta, were completed at a cost of Rs. 4,68,988:—

(1) Three-storeyed portion of the building.
(2) One-storeyed building.
(3) Main building, latrine and water-supply.
(4) Books branch.

Stamp and Stationery Office.

677. The masonry on block No. 1 of the new Stamp and Stationery buildings in Church Lane, Calcutta, was completed up to the top floor.

Museum.

678. The extension of the Indian Museum building, Calcutta, was completed during the year.

Imperial Library, Calcutta.

679. The work of re-wiring on the fire-proof system in the Imperial Library, Calcutta, was in progress.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

High Court.

680. Electric lights and fans were installed in the office-rooms in the north ground-floor of the main building of the High Court and also in the Judges' Library.

681. A new office building for the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, at Jalpaiguri, was commenced, and materials were collected. The main building for the new Court-house for the Deputy Commissioner, Jalpaiguri, was completed. The western block of the additional buildings for the Midnapore Collectorate. for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 1,84,645 was sanctioned, was finished, and the eastern block well advanced. The extensions of the Barisal Collectorate were commenced. Materials were collected for constructing a Police Office and Treasury at Sirajganj, and also for carrying out improvements in the existing court-house at that place. A new Judges' Court was constructed at Comilla, and extensive alterations were made in the existing Civil Court buildings. A Sessions Court was under construction at Jalpaiguri. Good progress was made with the work of extending the Civil Court buildings at Khulna, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 77,715 was sanctioned. The construction of iron racks in the record-room attached to the Judge's Court, Dacca, was nearly finished. Materials were collected for re-arranging the record racks in the Judge's Court, Dinajpur, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 14,170 has been sanctioned. An extension of the double Munsif's Court at Dinajpur was in progress. **Revenue and Judicial Courts.**

682. Additions and alterations were made to the quarters of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Munsifs at Bagerhat. Two sets of quarters for the Munsifs at Rajbari were nearly completed. Materials were collected for the construction of one set of quarters at Chuadanga and two sets each at Basirhat and Jalpaiguri, and also for substituting terraced roofs for the existing thatched roofs of the 1st and 2nd Munsifs' quarters at Satkhira. **Munsifs' Residences.**

683. Excise warehouses were constructed at Krishnagar, Luksam and Lalmonirhat, and quarters for the Superintendent and Sub-Inspector of the liquor warehouse at Siliguri. **Excise.**

684. Quarters were under construction for the Subdivisional Officers of Pirojpur and Kishorganj. The Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters at Bagerhat were completed, and quarters for the Sub-Deputy Collector at Bishnupur and the 2nd Officer at Sirajganj were in progress. Materials were collected for constructing quarters for the Subdivisional Officer at Katwa and for the Sub-Deputy Magistrates at Arambagh and Asansol and the 2nd Officer at Manikganj. **Subdivisional Residences.**

685. The following works in connection with Government House, Darjeeling, were carried out :— **Residences for the Local Government.**

(1) Improvements in the electric installation to bring it into line with the standard required in Government buildings.

(2) Converting "Jessamine Villa" into two sets of married quarters for the accommodation of His Excellency's staff.

(3) Certain works in connection with the out-houses which were in progress in the previous year.

Government House at Dacca was still under construction, and the work of the year was principally confined to internal decorative work in the official block, and the electrical installation throughout. With the exception of the grounds which have not yet been laid out, nearly all the other works were completed.

686. The buildings for the Press attached to the new Secretariat, Dacca, including residential quarters for the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and other officers of the Press, were completed during the year. **Secretariat Offices.**

687. In the new Civil Station of Dacca residences were constructed for the Director of Agriculture, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction, the Principal of the Training College and the Senior and 3rd European Professors of the Dacca College, the Deputy Accountant-General and the Chaplain, also for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, and his Personal Assistant, and the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police. Residences for the Assistant or Deputy Superintendents of Police at Barisal, Kishorganj, Manikganj and Tangail were completed, while materials were collected for similar residences at Madaripur, Mymensingh, Comilla and Patuakhali. A residence was commenced for the Civil Surgeon **Residences for Government Officials.**

of Jalpaiguri. The following residences were taken in hand for Police officers :—

(1) Residence for the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Nator (completed).
(2) Residence for the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rangpur, (completed).
(3) Residence for the Superintendent of Police, Rangpur (in progress).
(4) Converting Bhagabati Babu's house at Boalia into a residence for the Deputy Superintendent of Police (in progress).
(5) Residence for the Superintendent of Police, Pabna (in progress).

Jails. 688. In connection with the project for the conversion of the District Jail at Comilla into a second class Central Jail, which has recently been abandoned, the construction of the enclosure wall of the proposed Central Jail was in progress. The rebuilding of the fuel godown and certain improvements to the bakery in the Darjeeling Jail were carried out. The extension of the Khulna Jail and the construction of a hospital in the Krishnagar Jail were completed. A part of Ward No. 8 in the Midnapore Central Jail was converted into a juvenile ward, and dacoit railings were erected in the ward. A double-storeyed barrack and two worksheds and latrines for the hospital in the Noakhali Jail were constructed, and arrangements for the distribution of water were in hand. The extension of the jail compound at Mymensingh was in progress. Improvements were carried out in the Jail Press at Dacca. The New Presidency Jail at Alipore, which was started in 1904-1905, was completed, including all the quarters for the jail staff, and three press blocks were constructed inside the jail, for which a separate estimate amounting to Rs. 5,42,082 was sanctioned. Quarters were constructed for the four European Warders attached to the old Central Jail at Alipore. Improvements were made in the Sub-Jail at Magura.

Police. 689. An estimate amounting to Rs. 2,25,288 was sanctioned for the Central Police Training School at Sarda, and before the close of the year the additions, alterations and repairs required to the existing buildings were far advanced and 11 new buildings nearly completed. In connection with the police-station buildings at Pabna, the large investigating centre building was nearly finished and materials for the other buildings were collected. For the Military Police Battalion at Dacca three temporary barracks and cook-houses for married men were constructed ; an armoury for three companies and a quarter guard were in progress, and materials were collected for three single men's double-storeyed barracks. Two barracks for four head-constables and 50 constables were under construction at Mymensingh. Barracks and quarters in the police lines at Nandail and Bhaluka were also in progress. The police station and Sub-Inspectors' quarters at Ruma on the Sangu river in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were reconstructed in place of the buildings burnt down by dacoits. Improvements were made in the thana buildings at Suri. A barrack with cookshed for 14 constables in the Sadar police-station at Khulna was completed. At Midnapore a Reserve Police barrack was under construction. A first class police-station was in progress at Barasat. The out-post building at Malipanchghora was completed. The construction of a barrack for constables and quarters for the Inspector and Sub-Inspector at Sibpur was well in hand. Materials were collected for the construction of a police hospital at Mymensingh, and also for police buildings at Lohajang, English Bazar (Malda), Singra and Nandigram.

Educational. 690. The work of improving the existing High English School building, Darjeeling, and of constructing additional class-rooms, which was in progress in 1910-1911, was completed. Bricks were collected for the erection of a new building for the Jalpaiguri Zilla School, and materials were also collected for the Bogra Industrial School. An extension of the southern block of the Dinajpur Zilla School was in progress, and two refreshment-rooms for the school were erected. Materials were collected for the physical laboratory of the Rajshahi college, and also for the construction of a new building to provide additional accommodation for the Malda Zilla School. The Curzon Hall attached to the Dacca College was completed at a cost of Rs. 2,11,810, and additions to the existing college buildings were in progress.

Materials were collected for adding a second storey to the hostel attached to the School of Engineering at Dacca, and for the addition of a second storey to the Anglo-Persian department of the Dacca Madrassah. Two wings were added to the science block of the Chittagong College, and water was laid on to the laboratories and a gas-producing plant erected. A zilla school at Mymensingh and a new high school at Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were being constructed. The construction of a girls' school with mistresses' quarters at Faridpur was started. Land was acquired for the construction of a technical school and a play-ground for the Barisal Zilla School. The *guru*-training school building at Mahisrekha, Howrah, which was started by the Education Department and made over to the Public Works Department, was nearly completed. The construction of the physics laboratory at the Presidency College, Calcutta, including the extension subsequently sanctioned, made good progress. Hostels were constructed for the Hindu and Muhammadan students of the Faridpur Zilla School, for the Muhammdan students of the Manikganj High School and for 25 Hindu boys of the Rangpur Zilla School. A hostel was being constructed at the Mymensingh Zilla School and also a hostel for 25 Muhammadan boys at the Jaipaiguri Zilla School. Boarding-houses for the Nepali and Bhotia students, with quarters for the Superintendent of the hostels, were under construction at the Darjeeling High English School. Temporary hostels were taken in hand for Namasudras and Muhammadans attending the Jhalakati High School, and materials were collected for a hostel for the Muhammadan boys of the Jessore Zilla School.

Medical.

691. Dispensary buildings were constructed at Dacca for the benefit of the new civil station. An isolation hospital was started at Barisal. The east compound wall of the Central Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore, which showed signs of falling in several places, was dismantled and reconstructed, and the portion of the north compound wall which collapsed during the heavy rains of June 1911 was also rebuilt. The provision of additional accommodation for patients in the Lunatic Asylum was taken in hand, and the construction of the warder's quarters outside the asylum was completed up to roof level. The premises No. 2, Convent Road, Entally (Calcutta), comprising about 26 bighas of land, were acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,11,188 for the permanent location of a depôt for the manufacture of vaccine lymph for the whole province, and for the bacteriological and chemical laboratories which it was decided to establish in connection with the examination of the water-supply in Bengal. At the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, the fourth or administrative block was completed, as well as the water-supply to the practical chemistry laboratory and the erection of hydrants and light fencing on the southern portion of the college. A scullery was taken in hand for the Eden Hospital, Medical College. The land in connection with the Indian paying patients' block, Medical College, was finally acquired at a total cost of Rs. 1,39,555.

Registration.

692. The Registration offices at Faridpur, Mymensingh and Suri were enlarged, and the extension of the Sadar office at Dinajpur, as well as the special building under construction for the Sadar office at Khulna, were nearly completed.

Miscellaneous.

693. A considerable amount of work connected with the drainage of the new civil station at Dacca was carried out. The dog ward in the compound of the Veterinary College, Belgachia, was under construction. The work of filling in hollows and ditches and clearing and levelling the site of the Government brick-field at Bally was completed at an expenditure of Rs. 16,139.

Contribution Works.

694. The construction of a new surgical ward in the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Bhawanipur, was started. A memorial statue of Sir Andrew Fraser, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was erected at the north-east corner of Dalhousie Square Park. Land was acquired for the extension of the Senate House, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 1,96,883. The Baker Memorial ward in connection with the surgical ward of the Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling, was nearly completed, and other additions and improvements to the Sanitarium were carried out and in progress during the year. Improvements were also made in the Charitable Dispensary at Darjeeling.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Western Bengal districts.

695. In the 24-Parganas the repairs to the Akra-Matiabruz Road were completed during the year. The metalling of the flanks of the Grand Trunk Road, South, from Telkul Ghât Road to Ramkristapur, was completed, and that of the flanks from Banstolla Ghât to the Tramway terminus partly done. Eleven hundred and fifty boundary stones were fixed on the Grand Trunk Road. The remaining forty will be fixed as soon as the boundary dispute cases are disposed of. The damage caused by the floods of 1908-1909 and 1909-1910 to the Raniganj Road and Orissa Trunk Road was repaired during the year. A causeway was under construction on the 75th mile of the Grand Trunk Road (to profect the town of Burdwan from inundation), and Rs. 7,900 was expended on this work. An inspection bungalow with out-houses was under construction at Dantan in the Midnapore district.

Eastern Bengal districts.

696. 1·32 miles of metalled roads were added in the new civil station at Dacca. A number of wooden bridges on bridle roads in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which had been destroyed by flood, were rebuilt. A residential building at Barisal was purchased and converted into a dâk bungalow, and new out-offices were constructed.

Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri.

697. The construction of the road to the Takdah Cantonment in the Darjeeling district was completed, and three-fourths of the work of widening the Pashok Road leading from Ghoom to this road was done. The reconstruction of the inspection bungalow at Kalijhora on the Tista Valley Road was taken up and was nearly completed within the year. A committee was appointed by Government in September 1911 to consider the safety of the Darjeeling station, and the steps it is desirable to take for the afforestation of the slopes of the hills below and the report of the committee was under consideration when the year closed. A rest-house at Barodighi in the Duars was purchased by Government at a cost of Rs. 500. The inspection bungalow at Chalsa in the Duars, which was in progress in 1910-1911, was completed as well as the acquisition of lands along the Sulkapara-Thaljhora Road in the Jalpaiguri Duars.

ARBORICULTURE.

698. Arboriculture operations along the Public Works Department roads in the *Tarai* and other parts of the province were carried on to the extent of the funds available.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta.

699. The contract made in 1902 with the Oriental Gas Company for the lighting of the Maidan expired in May 1912, and a fresh contract for improved lighting, to run for a period of ten years, was entered into with the same company.

To meet the requirements of the increased traffic on the Maidan roads, the Mayo statue at the junction of the Mayo and Dufferin Roads was turned parallel with the Mayo Road and the size of the grass plot reduced, and alterations were also made round the Napier statue near Prinsep's Ghât.

Improvements in the electric lighting of the Eden Gardens in Calcutta were taken up, and the work was in progress during the year.

The erection of a shelter for tramway passengers on the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan by the Calcutta Tramways Company was permitted on an agreement executed between that company and the Secretary of State for India.

Barrackpore.

700. For the electric lighting of the streets in the Barrackpore Cantonment an agreement was executed between the Barrackpore Electric Supply Company, Limited, and the Secretary of State for India. This agreement will remain in force for a period of ten years from the 1st of April 1909.

The river Bhagirathi, at the point where it leaves the Ganges, was improved by dredging, sand-scraping and bandalling at a cost of Rs. 17,132.

Dacca and Faridpur.

701. A considerable amount of work connected with the drainage of the new civil station at Dacca was carried out. The palisading constructed

at Madaripur for the protection of the river bank on which the civil station is built was strengthened by a short extension.

Noakhali.

702. Careful observations were made of the progress of the encroachment of the Meghna river on the town of Noakhali. Bench marks were fixed, surveys made and levels at high and low water recorded with a view to investigate the progress of further diluviation and shoaling of the channels forming the delta. The town of Noakhali, which used to be ten miles from the river bank, is now only two miles off.

Barisal.

703. The improvement and fencing of five tanks in the civil station at Barisal were taken in hand and three were completed. At Barisal considerable erosion of the west bank of the river on which the town stands has been going on for some years, and during the last floods a portion of the bank 500 feet long by 40 feet wide just north of the steamer ghât was washed away. With a view to encourage the extension of a *chur*, which is forming higher up, a series of bamboo groynes was constructed across the *chur* to help the deposit of silt, and a triangular spur was constructed at the upper end of the length subject to greatest erosion ; a series of five loose brick groynes was also put down to break up the current, two of the groynes being constructed from contributions received from local zamindars. The works were completed before the advent of the floods, and the result during the coming rains will be watched with interest.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

704. The following were completed :—

Darjeeling.

(1) Improvements to the head works in the 11th mile, Rishi road in connection with the water-supply at Kalimpong.
(2) Additional bazar sheds for the Matigarah and Naxalbari *hâts* in the Darjeeling district.
(3) Protective works : Singla suspension bridge.
(4) Providing cast iron saddles to the Jephikhola suspension bridge.

The water-supply works of the town of Kurseong were nearly completed ; about 30 feet of 3″ pipe remains to be joined with the Municipal main.

The following contribution works were in progress when the year closed :—

(1) Stable for the Darjeeling Improvement Fund bungalow at Senchal.
(2) Certain improvements to the bazar and rest-house water-supply, Kalimpong.
(3) Water-supply for drinking and household purposes at Tista bazar, Darjeeling district.

Other districts.

705. Two trial borings, 100 feet each, at Pabna were undertaken by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Pabna Municipality. A good spring was struck in each case, and the water of one spring was found to be pure on chemical analysis.

A similar trial boring, 200 feet deep, was undertaken on behalf of the Victoria Memorial Water-works Committee at Rampur-Boalia. A good spring was struck, and the water on chemical analysis was found to be pure.

Two trial borings were driven at Tangail, in the Mymensingh district, on behalf of the Municipality, under the supervision of the Sanitary Engineer.

The removal of the Lighthouse at Sagar Island had become necessary on account of the steady encroachment of the sea. The Lighthouse buildings were accordingly dismantled and reconstructed on a new site at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,20,934.

Railways.

Administration.

706. None of the railways in this province are altogether controlled by the Government of Bengal. The Government of India (Railway Board) have complete control over the more important lines, while the undermentioned

small lines of purely local importance are partially subject to the control of the Government of Bengal :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway ...	2	0	51·00
(2) Tarakeswar-Magra Railway... ...	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ...	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway ...	2	0	19·75
(5) Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway ...	2	6	51·12
			199·01

Mileage.

707. The open mileage in the province on 1st March 1912 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard gauge	1,249·98
Metre „	1,092·11
2′ 6″ „	119·63
2′ 0″ „	114·62
	2,576·34

Lines sanctioned and under construction.

708. The following lines were under construction during the year :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
East Indian Railway—			
Bandel to Katwa	5	6	64·75
Katwa to Dhulian	5	6	84·70
Eastern Bengal State Railway—			
Rajabhatkhawa-Dalsingpara Branch ...	3	3⅜	17·43
Singhjani-Fulchari Extension	3	3⅜	27·82
Assam-Bengal Railway System—			
Bhairab-Bazar to Tangi, with a wagon ferry on the river Meghna	3	3⅜	41·96

The construction of the following line was sanctioned :—

Eastern Bengal State Railway—			
Rajabhatkhawa-Dalsingpara	3	3⅜	17·43

Surveys completed.

709. The following surveys were completed during the year :—

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

(1) From Rajabhatkhawa to Dalsingpara, metre gauge, 17·43 miles.
(2) The Barisal Connection Reconnaissance Survey for a 5′ 6″ or 2′ 6″ gauge line.
(3) From Sara to Sirajganj, 5′ 6″ gauge.
(4) From Khulna to Bagirhat, 2′ 6″ gauge.
(5) From Sara to Santahar, 48·51 miles for laying a 5′ 6″ gauge track alongside the existing metre gauge.
(6) From Ulipur to Chilmari, 2′ 6″ gauge, 17 miles.

By the Bengal-Duars Railway—

(1) From Baura to Mathabanga and Kona Ghat, metre gauge, 19·74 miles.
(2) From Chalsa to Matelli, metre gauge, 5·31 miles.

By the Darjeeling-Himdlayan Railway—

(1) From Siliguri to Kishanganj, 72 miles.
(2) From Siliguri to Tista Bridge, 29·50 miles.
(3) From Darjeeling to Lebong, 5 miles.
(4) From Ghoom to Takdah, 8 miles.

} All on the 2-feet gauge.

710. Authority was given to undertake the following surveys :— Surveys sanctioned.

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

(1) The Sara-Parbatipur Conversion Survey, 5′ 6″ gauge.
(2) From Raiganj to Titalia, metre gauge.

By the Bengal-Duars Railway—

(1) From Bagrakote to Sivok on the metre gauge.
(2) From Sivok to Kalimpong on the metre, or such other gauge as may be found suitable.

711. The portion from Bandel to Nabadwip of the Hooghly-Katwa Branch of the East Indian Railway was opened to traffic on 1st April 1912. Works completed.

On the Bengal-Nagpur Railway system, 5′ 6″ gauge section, the works in connection with the duplication of the wagon ferry from Shalimar to Kidderpore, across the river Hooghly, were completed during the year.

712. Of the lines partially controlled by the Government of Bengal— Light Railways.

A line from Jessore to Jhenida, with a branch to Kotchandpur on the 2′ 6″ gauge for which a concession had been granted to Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co., was in course of construction during the year.

Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. were granted a concession to form a Branch Company of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company for the construction of 2′ gauge extensions of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway from—

(1) Siliguri to Kishanganj,
(2) Siliguri to the Tista Bridge,
(3) Darjeeling to Lebong, and
(4) Ghoom to Takdah,

a total length of about 112 miles.

Messrs. H. V. Low & Co. were granted a concession to float a Branch Company for the construction of a 2′ 6″ gauge railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghi, a length of about 56 miles. The line will be subsidized by the District Board of Nadia.

The Railway Board sanctioned the adoption of the "Absolute Block System" for working trains on the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway.

The light railways in Bengal continued to work successfully, and to yield a fair return to their shareholders and to the District Boards.

713. Messrs. Killick, Nixon & Co. of Bombay asked the Railway Board for a concession to raise capital for the construction of a railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Sara Ghât *viâ* Sirajganj to Mymensingh and thence to Siju or right through to Darangiri. As the proposed line is likely to compete with various existing interests, the Railway Board were unable to consider proposals for its construction by private enterprise, but the question of constructing a line to the Darangiri coal-fields as part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system was under the consideration of that railway. Miscellaneous.

During the rains of July 1911, which were unusually heavy in the Duars, serious breaches occurred on the eastern extension of the Bengal-Duars Railway. In some places it took two months to restore through communication, twenty miles of the embankment having been more or less damaged and one bridge washed away.

The work on the Lower Ganges Bridge near Sara to link up the 5′ 6″ and 3′ 3⅜″ sections of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system was in progress.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation works for the year 1911-1912.]

714. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, as it now stands, for the year 1911-1912, are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of irrigation and navigation. Works which Capital and Revenue Accounts.

afford protection from flood or which facilitate drainage, are reviewed separately and are not noticed in this report :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1911-1912.	Expenditure to end of 1911-1912.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1912.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	1,08,58,318	(—) 3,942	1,08,58,559	(—) 241
Indirect „ ...	2,48,603	(—) 149	2,48,644	(—) 41
Total ...	1,11,06,921	(—) 4,091*	1,11,07,203	(—) 282
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,16,42,168	3,76,902	1,13,11,301	3,30,867
Indirect „ ...	1,31 472	17,887	1,79,116	(—) 47,644
Total ...	1,17,73,640	3,94,789	1,14,90,417	2,83,223

* Amount credited during the year.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total working expenses.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,77,835	2,76,552	18,676	2,95,228	(—) 17,393
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.	5,59,364	3,02,713	15,191	3,17,904	2,41,460
Works for which only revenue accounts are kept.	37,181	84,637	4,763	89,400	(—) 52,219
Works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.	31,968	28,331	...	28,331*	3,637

* Exclusive of Rs. 22,543 spent on the improvement of the navigable channels of the Ganges in the Nadia Rivers Division.

715. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1911 :— Irrigation.

	Midnapore Canal (Major Works).			Eden Canal (Minor Works).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi*.	Total.	*Kharif*, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi*.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1911.	69,353	48	69,401	20,659	271	20,930
For 1911-1912	80,975	...	80,975	24,041	310	24,351

716. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1911-1912. These figures are identical with those reported in 1910-1911 :— Lengths of canals.

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
Main canals, irrigation ...	53	27½
Branch canals, irrigation ...	16·75	
Distributaries of above ...	254·54	17⅔
Navigable channels	69·75	...

717. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1911-1912 :— Navigation.

	Midnapore Canal.	Hijili Tidal Canal.	Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	Madaripore Bil Route.	Nadia Rivers.
	For the year 1911-1912.	For the year 1911-1912.	For the year 1911-1912.	For the year 1911-1912.	For the year 1911-1912.
Length of canal open ... ... Miles.	69·75	29	1,115	21	50½
Receipts ... ... Rs.	37,889	60,991	4,14,406	1,21,838	33,476
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... ... Tons.	352,408	241,083	1,167,896	256,405	189,827
Estimated weight of cargo... ... ,,	77,906	25,235	757,815	261,879	129,074
Estimated value of goods ... ... Rs.	65,96,201	73,47,284	6,88,82,234	3,93,05,563	1,87,22,107
Estimated value of rafts ... ... ,,	10,624	30,001	57,472	15,895	63,862

718. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of the Damodar and Ajai rivers and three rivers in the Birbhum district were observed during the year. Discharge of rivers.

719. The classification of the works dealt with in this review is as follows :— Classification of Irrigation and Navigation works.

Major Works.—In these are included the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation.

Minor Works and Navigation.—(*i*). The works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern canals, the Madaripur Bil route and a portion of the Orissa coast canal. These are all for navigation. Under this is also included the Utterbhag lock now under construction in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage scheme, which, when completed, will be for navigation only. (*ii*) The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia rivers and the Gaighatta and Baxi khal, and they are used for navigation only. (*iii*) The works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden canal, which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried on the rivers Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

Under (*ii*) is also included the Magra Hât Drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary, which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence :—

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital account. 720. There was a net credit of Rs. 3,942 to the capital account of the canal on account of sale-proceeds of canal lands. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,07,754.

Flood. 721. The highest flood in the Cossye river during the year was on the 7th October 1911 when the gauge at Mohanpur read 84·50 against the highest recorded flood level of 94·50 on the 2nd September 1907.

Rainfall. 722. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows :—

Station.	1912-13.	Average of 10 previous years.
	Inches.	Inches.
Midnapore	54·46	56·87
Panchkura	47·58	54·97

Irrigation. 723. The area irrigated from the canal was 80,975 acres as against 73,940 acres in the previous year. The increase was due to insufficient rainfall during the year, specially at the beginning of the irrigation season. No difficulty was experienced in supplying water to the leased areas.

The demand of Rs. 1,56,631 for water-rates, which became due during the year, was realised practically in full before the close of the year, the balance uncollected being only Rs. 29. The demand was in excess of that of the previous year (Rs. 1,43,228) owing to (1) an increase in the leased area and (2) the renewal of lapsed leases at the increased rate of Rs. 2 per acre. The rate for long-term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre, with effect from 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance till 1916-1917.

Navigation. 724. The navigation receipts showed a falling off of Rs. 7,040 compared with those of the previous year. This was due to the whole length of the canal from Mohanpur to Ulubaria having remained closed to traffic from the 15th January 1912 to the end of the year for silt clearance and repairs to lock gates.

Financial results. 725. The gross revenue and the working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore canal amounted to Rs. 2,15,184 and Rs. 2,59,994 respectively, as against Rs. 2,06,775 and Rs. 1,97,718 in the preceding year. The increase in gross receipts is chiefly under "Water rates," and is mainly due to a larger area having been irrigated during the year. The increase in working expenses is due entirely to an increase in the sum allocated to this canal by the Accountant-General under a new system of distribution adopted by him, and does not represent any actual increase in the establishment employed on this canal.

Hijili tidal canal. 726. There was no outlay chargeable to the capital account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounts to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 62,651 and Rs. 35,234 respectively, as against Rs. 55,357 and Rs. 77,736 in 1910-1911. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 27,417, as against a deficit of Rs. 22,379 in the preceding year. The increase in revenue is mainly due to the improved condition of the canal. No heavy or special repairs were required, and as a consequence the

cost of maintenance was comparatively low. There were no high floods in any of the rivers crossed by the canal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital account.

727. There was a net credit of Rs. 97,976 to the capital account chiefly on account of the hire of the dredger *Foyers*. Some outlay was incurred on the Kristapur canal which was practically completed last year, and some on preliminary surveys in connection with the Tolly's Nala canalization scheme and the proposed Hooghly-Bidhyadhari Canal project. The capital outlay now stands at Rs. 83,84,112 (direct charges).

Navigation receipts.

728. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,14,406, as compared with Rs. 3,67,620 in the preceding year. The increase is due to the development of traffic owing to the opening of the Kristapur canal. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 4,35,658 and Rs. 3,10,421 respectively, as against Rs. 3,85,555 and Rs. 4,07,111 respectively in 1910-1911, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 1,25,237 against a deficit of Rs. 21,556 in the preceding year.

Madaripur Bil route.

729. Rupees 4,59,082 debitable to capital outlay was expended during the year in deepening by dredging the channel through the bil, which work was almost completed at the end of the year. Half of this amount is payable by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The total capital outlay to the end of 1911-1912 amounts to Rs. 28,94,341, of which Rs. 21,72,858 were debited to this Government and the balance to the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The sanctioned estimate for the project amounts to Rs. 31,66,876. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were respectively Rs. 1,23,706 and Rs. 7,483, as against Rs. 58,192 and Rs. 8,757 in the year 1910-1911. The increase in receipts is due to the development of traffic, and this may be attributed to the fact that the route is now accessible to steamers and boats throughout its whole length all the year round. The maundage of boats was 13,993,668 against 87,31,773 of the previous year. The net revenue during 1911-1912 was Rs. 1,16,223, which is equivalent to a return of 3·94 per. cent. on the capital outlay expended to the end of the year, including indirect charges. The result may be considered satisfactory. Of the net revenue realised, Rs. 29,039 were credited to the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Gaighatta and Baxi khal.

730. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 3,675 and Rs. 4,579 respectively as against Rs. 4,675 and Rs. 1,427 in the previous year. The increase in expenditure is due to the clearance of silt in the khal which necessitated a remission to the lessee. The collection of tolls and fishing rights has been leased out for three years from 1910-1911 at Rs. 4,900 per annum, as against Rs. 4,500 for the two previous years.

Eden canal.

731. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 31,968 and Rs. 28,331 respectively, as against Rs. 33,009 and Rs. 22,774 respectively in the year 1910-1911. Though the area irrigated during the year (24,351 acres) was in excess of that irrigated during the preceding year (23,113), the receipts which are mostly from water-rates fell off. This was due to the fact that (*a*) the amount outstanding at the beginning of 1910-1911 was in excess of that outstanding at the beginning of 1911-1912, (*b*) the amount remitted during 1910-1911 was smaller than that remitted in the year under review and (*c*) the unrealised balance at the end of 1911-1912 was higher than that of the preceding year.

Utterbagh lock.

732. During the year a sum of Rs. 14,798 (direct charges) was spent on the lock, which is being constructed on the Peali river at Utterbhag to give access to the channels constructed under the Magra Hât Drainage scheme to boats coming from the Sundarbans and Eastern rivers. The original sanctioned estimate for this was Rs. 81,801 for works only, and a revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1,41,825, including direct and indirect charges, has been sanctioned. It is expected that the lock will be completed in the year 1913-1914.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Nadia rivers.

733. The following channels are comprised in the Nadia rivers :—

	Miles.
Faracca channel between Ganges and Bhagirathi rivers	25
Bhagirathi river	151
Bhairab-Jelingi river	165½
Mathabhanga „	136
Hooghly „	32
Total ...	509½

The decrease in the length of the Bhagirathi by 6½ miles, as compared with that reported last year, is due to the main channel having shifted to the Haruabhanga khal from the Kaliganj channel which has gradually silted up. No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 33,506 and Rs. 84,821 respectively, as against Rs. 37,037 and Rs. 1,10,883 respectively in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts is due to the falling off in tolls on steamers and flats at the Swarupganj toll station. The number of boats using these rivers during the year was 17,080, as against 17,572 in the previous year.

Ganges training works.

734. In the year 1911-1912 Government decided to continue the operations, as the results of the previous year had been favourable, and a special training works subdivision was again formed from 15th October 1911. In this year the number of shoals successfully trained was 8 and the least depth of water throughout the season was 6 feet. The cost to Government during the year was Rs. 22,543, inclusive of all charges, against Rs. 34,346 in the preceding year. These sums would have been considerably increased, but for the fact that the materials for training works have been carried free of cost by the steamer companies interested in the work.

Dredging the entrance of the Bhagirathi from the Ganges.

735. For some years past dredging operations have been conducted at the mouth of the Bhagirathi at its offtake from the Ganges, where it opens out from a loop of the Ganges known as the Faracca channel. This loop commences at Faracca and rejoins the Ganges about 4 miles below the offtake of the Bhagirathi. A shoal about 2½ miles long with two intermediate deep pools forms at the entrance of the Bhagirathi ; this shoal is known as the Biswanathpur shoal, and the object of the training works yearly undertaken is to scour this shoal and so admit as large a volume of water as possible into the Bhagirathi. This is done mainly to secure water for drinking, domestic and sanitary purposes, and not with the object of improving navigation. As no dredging plant could be procured during the year 1911-12, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 4,379 against Rs. 11,703 in the previous year.

Dredging the Gorai entrance.

736. In the beginning of the season the depths over the entrance were sufficient for steamer traffic, but in February 1912 there was a considerable reduction in depths which reduced the discharges into the river and caused the formation of shoals at Sultanpur about 5 miles above Kushtia and 10 miles below the entrance, where the least depth at the shoal was only 2′ 9″. This caused detention of traffic. Dredging was then commenced on the 3rd March and continued till the 16th April, 1912 with the effect that the channel was completely cleared with but little difficulty.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Ganges training works below Rampur Boalia.

737. Training works were carried out on the river Ganges at Rampur-Boalia last year as usual to improve navigation as well as sanitary conditions and the water-supply of the town. The work was executed by the

India General Navigation and Railway Company and the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited, with the help of a subsidy of Rs. 4,250 from Government.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

738. Since 1906-1907 training works have been undertaken in the Buriganga and Dhaleswari rivers to facilitate navigation and to improve the water-supply of the town of Dacca. The results have been satisfactory, and at the end of the winter season of 1911-1912 the rivers were open throughout for country boat traffic, a result which had not been achieved in the previous years. **Training works in the Buriganga and Dhaleswari rivers.**

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1911-1912.]

739. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant) during the year amounted to Rs. 6,42,335. **Expenditure.**

740. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government in this Presidency is 1,356 miles and 966 feet, and these protect an area of 3,786,124 acres. These embankments are generally effective against ordinary high floods, but a few are liable to be overtopped during exceptionally high floods. **Length of embankments.**

741. There were no high floods during the year in any of the rivers, except in the Damodar and Ajai rivers in the South-Western Circle. The floods in the Damodar did no damage to the embankments, while the damage to crops in the spill area appears to have been very slight. The flood-level in the Ajai river was only 2 inches lower than the highest recorded flood of 15th July 1899. There were three breaches in the Ajai right embankment, and some damage was done to standing crops and houses. **Floods.**

742. The survey of schedule D embankments in the Luchmapur subdivision of the Cossye Division was completed during the year. Survey was also made of the schedule D embankments in the Panskura subdivision. Surveys for the drainage of the country within the Hara basin were completed, and another survey was made for the proposed retired line at Diamond Harbour. The survey of the Maraganga river from Garia to Surjapur was in progress. **Surveys.**

743. The outlay under this head during the year amounted to the sum of Rs. 27,081, which was chiefly expended on the re-excavation of the Kausiki channel, and on the construction of inspection bungalows at Uttarbhag and Gillarchat and office and quarters for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer, Diamond Harbour. **Original works.**

744. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 3,71,803 as against Rs. 4,23,290 in the year 1910-1911. The reduction in outlay was due to the fact that there was less expenditure during the year on retired lines. **Ordinary repairs.**

745. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burrajolla drainage works in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year at a cost of Rs. 12,951 against the average amount of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance. The maintenance charges of all these works were capitalized and included in the capital cost of the projects payable by the persons benefited. As a result, the responsibility of maintaining the works in perpetuity rests upon Government. **Works undertaken under the provisions of—**

(a) The Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

746. The only work which has as yet been carried on under this Act is the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district, the object being to drain the swamps in an area of 290 square miles around Magra Hât within the embankments of the 24-Parganas. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 21,20,966, and the expenditure up to date amounts to Rs. 19,46,580, of which Rs. 1,06,530 were expended during the year. The work is nearly completed.

(b) The Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

(c) The Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

747. A second revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1,65,549 for the Argowal drainage project in the Midnapore district was sanctioned during the year, and the construction of the bridges over the main drainage khal was in progress. The improvement of some minor drainage channels and the raising of the banks of the main drainage khal to the sanctioned height still remained to be done at the end of the year. The total expenditure on the project to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,52,588. The work of the extension of the Panchannogram embankment, taken up in 1909-1910, was in progress, the outlay of the year amounting to Rs. 5,078. For draining a portion of the Tangraberiah basin, the construction of a one-vented sluice at Goredoho on the left bank of the Peali river was nearly completed, the outlay to the end of the year being Rs. 9,184. Work in connection with the three-vented sluice at Alumpur in the 15th mile of the Hooghly left embankment was in progress, the outlay of the year being Rs. 17,647. The construction of a seven-vented sluice at Mahamaya on the right bank of the Moni river at an estimated cost of Rs. 96,084 was taken in hand, and an expenditure of Rs. 5,111 was incurred during the year.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government, but not under the provisions of any Act.

748. The construction of the main drain of the Bagjolla drainage scheme with its outfall into the Kristapur canal, which was taken in hand in the previous year for the efficient drainage of certain municipalities in the 24-Parganas district near Calcutta, was completed during the year, with the exception of the closing of the culvert at its head. The total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 73,672 against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 1,28,439, the outlay of the year being Rs. 40,073. The land charges have not yet been finally adjusted by the Civil Department. The work has proved very satisfactory, and it is expected that, with the improvement of its subsidiary drains, the sanitary condition of the locality will be greatly improved.

The construction of a masonry sluice and a retired line of embankment for the drainage of the Government estate Tona in the 24-Parganas district was completed during the year. The work was made over to the Collector of the district in September 1911.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

749. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1911-1912 as compared with that of 1910-1911 :— **Gross Revenue.**

[The figures are in thousands.]

	1910-1911.			1911-1912.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—						
Land Revenue	1,12,32	1,57,35	2,69,67	1,14,43	1,57,27	2,71,70
Opium	10,92,93	...	10,92,93	7,55,11	...	7,55,11
Salt	1,15,16	...	1,15,16	1,25,97	...	1,25,97
Stamps	96,93	96,93	1,93,86	1,00,56	1,00,56	2,01,12
Excise	62,95	62,95	1,25,90	33,47	1,00,41	1,33,88
Provincial Rates	...	32,59	32,59	...	31,75	31,75
Customs	2,74,03	...	2,74,03	2,96,32	...	2,96,32
Assessed Taxes	26,32	25,78	52,10	26,74	26,73	53,47
Forests	7,02	7,02	14,04	...	13,87	13,87
Registration	...	16,31	16,31	...	17,34	17,34
Total ...	17,87,66	3,98,93	21,86,59	14,52,60	4,47,93	19,00,53
Interest	12,30	6,31	18,61	12,61	5,22	17,83
Receipts by Civil Department—						
Law and Justice—						
Courts of Law	...	7,65	7,65	...	7,61	7,61
Jails	...	6,39	6,39	...	8,31	8,31
Police	...	2,03	2,03	...	1,88	1,88
Marine	...	16,07	16,07	...	16,95	16,95
Education	...	6,78	6,78	...	7,33	7,33
Medical	...	3,67	3,67	...	3,63	3,63
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	...	3,24	3,24	...	2,37	2,37
Total ...	...	45,83	45,83	...	48,08	48,08
Miscellaneous—						
Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,80	36	2,16	1,70	43	2,13
Stationery and Printing ...	3	1,40	1,43	1	1,30	1,31
Miscellaneous	54	6,14	6,68	50	6,35	6,85
Total ...	2,37	7,90	10,27	2,21	8,08	10,29
Irrigation—						
Major Works (direct receipts) ...	...	2,62	2,62	1,39	1,39	2,78
Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department ...	...	5,52	5,52	3,36	3,36	6,72
By Civil Department ...	...	54	54	25	25	50
Total ...	...	8,68	8,68	5,00	5,00	10,00
Building and Roads—						
Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department ...	73	3,71	4,44	79	4,62	5,41
By Civil Department ...	...	1,53	1,53	...	1,55	1,55
Total ...	73	5,24	5,97	79	6,17	6,96
GRAND TOTAL ...	18,03,06	4,72,89	22,75,95	14,73,21	5,20,48	19,93,69

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial receipts.

750. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1911-1912 as compared with those of 1910-1911 :—

Major heads of receipts.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,12,32	1,14,43	2,11	.....
II.—Opium	10,92,93	7,55,11	.....	3,37,82
III.—Salt	1,15,16	1,25,97	10,81	.....
IV.—Stamps	96,93	1,00,56	3,63	.....
V.—Excise	62,95	33,47	.....	29,48
VII.—Customs	2,74,03	2,96,32	22,29	.....
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	26,32	26,74	42	.....
IX.—Forest	7,02	.....	.....	7,02
XII.—Interest	12,30	12,61	31	.....
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,80	1,70	.....	10
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	3	1	.....	2
XXV.—Miscellaneous	54	50	.....	4
XXIX.—Irrigation Major Works (P. W.)	.....	1,39	1,39	.....
XXX.— Ditto Minor Works (Civil)	.....	25	25	.....
XXX.— Ditto ditto (P. W.)	.....	3,36	3,36	.....
XXXI.—Civil Works (P. W.) ...	73	79	6	.....
Total ...	18,03,06	14,73,21	44,63	3,74,48

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes :—*Land Revenue.*—Increase under ordinary revenue due to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demand; *Opium.*—Lower prices obtained at the sales on a smaller number of chests ; *Salt*—Larger clearances ; *Stamps*—Normal increase of litigation and general improvement of trade ; *Excise*—Decrease of Imperial share of revenue from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$; *Customs*—Larger imports of spirits, liquors and manufactured articles on account of the Coronation Durbar, and of cotton goods and petroleum and a greater export trade in food-grains, flour, oil-seeds and tea ; *Assessed Taxes*—The employment of a larger number of assistants by railway companies and mercantile firms, the issue of new debentures and the favourable state of the piece-goods markets ; *Forest*—The provincialization of this head under the terms of the new settlement ; *Interest*—Realization of arrears from the Calcutta Port Fund ; *Superannuation*—Larger outlay on improvements of the Kidderpore Orphanage market, the expenditure on which is taken in reduction of receipts ; *Miscellaneous*—Smaller indent of European stores from Provincial and Local Funds ; *Irrigation Major and Minor Works.*—The division of these heads between Imperial and Provincial revenues in the new settlement.

Imperial expenditure.

751. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1911-1912 as compared with that of 1910-1911 :—

Major heads of expenditure.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	7,04	11,07	4,03	.....
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	1,04	1,00	.....	4
3. Land Revenue	16,69	16,99	30	.....
4. Opium	22	28	6	.....
5. Salt	2,79	2,59	.....	20
6. Stamps	3,04	3,23	19	.....
7. Excise	2,96	1,58	.....	1,38
9. Customs	12,38	13,08	70	.....
10. Assessed Taxes	75	78	3	.....
11. Forest	3,32	.....	.....	3,32
14. Interest on other obligations ...	53	46	.....	7
18. General Administration ...	3,40	6,73	3,33	.....
23. Ecclesiastical	1,98	1,97	.....	1
25. Political	9	9	.....	.....
26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	1,38	2,37	99	.....

Major heads of expenditure.	1910-1911.	1911-1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
27. Territorial and Political Pensions ...	8,03	7,96	.....	7
29. Superannuation	55	38	.....	17
30. Stationery and Printing ...	.....	23	23	.....
32. Miscellaneous	24	41	17	.....
35. Protective Irrigation Works ...	11	13	2	.....
42. Irrigation—Interest on Debt ...	27	29	2	.....
42. Ditto Major Works Interest on Debt (Civil).	.....	1,71	1,71	.....
42. Ditto Major Works, Working Expenses (P. W.)	.....	1,38	1,38	.....
43. Ditto Minor Works (Civil) ...	.....	2	2	.....
43. Ditto Minor Works (P. W.)	.....	7,83	7,83	.....
45. Civil Works (Civil)	5	5	.....	.....
45. Ditto (P. W.)	18,22	25,58	7,36	.....
Total ...	85,08	1,08,19	28,37	5,26

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows :—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—Larger refunds of Customs duties on Java sugar, owing to scarcity in Europe and prevailing high prices ; *Land Revenue*—Larger expenditure on settlement operations ; *Opium*—Increase in freight on *abkari* opium from Calcutta to Rangoon ; *Excise*—Decrease of Imperial share as explained on the receipt side from ½ to ¼ ; *Customs*—Revision of establishment and larger payment of overtime allowances ; *Forests*—The provincialization of this head ; *General Administration*—Amalgamation of the Public Works audit and account offices with the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal ; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—Larger expenditure in connection with census operations ; *Superannuation*—Special payment of allowance to the wards of the Kidderpore Military Orphanage subsequent to its closure in 1910-11 ; *Stationery and Printing*—Charges for stationery supplied to the Imperial departments appeared for the first time in the accounts ; *Miscellaneous*—Heavy remittances of treasure ; *Irrigation Maior and Minor Works*—The division between Imperial and Provincial in the Provincial settlement as stated on the receipt side ; *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department*—Larger expenditure on Stamp and Stationery, Museum and Press buildings.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Imperial Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[The Reports (including supplement) on the Maritime Trade of Bengal and of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs.

752. The gross customs receipts (inclusive of 3·99 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) amounted to Rs. 4,19,08,858, showing an increase over the previous year of nearly Rs. 34,86,566, of which Rs. 34,15,658 was contributed by Calcutta. Refunds amounted to Rs. 9,61,658 against Rs. 5,52,907, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 4,09,47,200, showing an increase of 8·1 per cent. on last year's figures.

Taxation remained unchanged during the year, with the exception of the imposition of an export duty on jute with effect from the 2nd January 1912

for the benefit of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The net increase in revenue would have been considerably larger but for the continued development of the credit system for the payment of duty on salt.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 393·12 lakhs. Of this amount salt (including the inland collections) yielded Rs. 124·16 lakhs. The collection on account of other articles rose from Rs. 2,52,60,790 to Rs. 2,68,95,466. This increase was chiefly due to large receipts in the case of petroleum (Rs. 29,18,621) and cotton-goods (Rs. 73,21,977). Sugar and tobacco showed some decline. The export duty collections rose from Rs. 18,55,997 to Rs. 25,97,262, due to larger payments under the head of rice and to the new jute duty. The increase under refunds was mainly the result of larger payments on account of petroleum. The large increase in the case of drawbacks was due to exceptional re-exports of sugar. Duty collections on salt at inland bonded warehouses were less by 19 per cent.

Net Income.

753. The net income of the Calcutta Customs House amounted to Rs. 3,85,58,632 against Rs. 3,57,40,583 in 1910-1911, representing an increase of nearly 7·9 per cent. The net income of the Eastern Bengal Ports was Rs. 9,19,767.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

754. There were 851 cases during the year against 698 in the previous year. Of these 588 cases represented under-valuations and other misdeclarations affecting duty. The extra duty realized and penalties imposed amounted to Rs. 16,898 and Rs. 4,220 against Rs. 15,390 and Rs. 6,986, respectively, in the preceding year. Some smart seizures of opium were effected, and 11 seizures of cocaine involving 338 ounces. Convictions were obtained in most cases. Latterly the trying Magistrates have inflicted more exemplary punishments in important cases, and this should have a salutary effect. One case of shipment of feathers of considerable importance was detected.

Merchandise Marks Act.

755. There were 698 cases under the Act against 545 in the previous year. Of these 605 related to offences of false trade description. The penalties realized during the year amounted to Rs. 7,730 against Rs. 9,620 in 1910-11.

Administration.

756. The scheme for the re-organization of the ministerial establishment of the Calcutta Custom House was sanctioned during the year and came into force with effect from the 30th May 1911. Barisal was declared a port under the Sea Customs Act during the year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Salt Law.

757. The draft Bill for consolidating and amending the law relating to salt and salt-revenue, prepared by the Government of India was considered by the Boards of Revenue of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and their opinions were submitted to Government towards the close of the year 1911.

Administration.

758. The salt credit system continued to be popular in Calcutta, and very extensive advantage was taken of it by the salt merchants during the year under review. It is reported that securities to the amount of Rs. 26,12,500 were deposited by them during the year, and the quantity of salt issued under the system rose to the high figure of 4,915,766 maunds. Although the system was in force in Chittagong, it was not taken advantage of by any salt merchants there. The revised scheme for the construction of seven additional *golas* on the Salkhia foreshore, at a total estimated approximate cost of Rs. 4,50,000, received the administrative approval of the Government of India, and detailed plans and estimates were submitted by the Board in February 1912. A second revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 4,08,345, for constructing salt *golas* at Chittagong, has been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Imports.

759. The imports into the port of Calcutta show an increase of over 15 lakhs of maunds as compared with the previous year, and the importations into the port of Chittagong an increase of nearly 5 lakhs or 113·1 per cent. Of the several countries which exported salt to Calcutta, the United Kingdom supplied the largest quantity, while Aden was the largest exporter to Chittagong. As regards Calcutta, it is reported that the salt trade generally was brisk, and more vessels than usual were employed in it.

760. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the Province of Bengal as constituted in 1911-1912 was 9,258,319 maunds, and that which passed into consumption in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year was 5,173,274 maunds. The figures for the total consumption of salt in the territories now constituting the Presidency of Bengal are not available as yet. There was an increase of 3 annas 1 pie in the average wholesale price per maund of salt, which is attributable to the high prices of imported salt in the Calcutta and Chittagong markets. The average retail price for the province was $10\frac{2}{3}$ pies a seer against $9\frac{3}{4}$ pies in the previous year. Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds as sold from the ship's side in Calcutta rose from Rs. 45-11-11 in 1910-1911 to Rs. 64-7-1·4. The rise in price is attributed generally to high freight and to the formation of a combine with the object of maintaining prices at a high level and of obviating the cutting of rates to which competition gives rise. **Consumption and p**

761. There was a slight increase in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt Law (Act XII of 1882) in the districts of Midnapore, Howrah and the 24-Parganas during the year, as compared with the previous year, but the total number of cases was very small. No cases were reported in Khulna, Noakhali and Chittagong, and no cases were sent up under section 5 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1864. The absence of salt crime is attributed to the effective patrol of salt officers, the cheapness of licit salt, the wide distribution of shops for the sale of licit salt and the prosperous condition of the people generally. **Prosecutions.**

762. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1910-1911, show an increase of over 11 lakhs or 9·3 per cent. in receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 28,721 or 8·06 per cent. in expenditure, the net revenue exceeding that of the previous year by 9·8 per cent. **Financial results.**

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*).—Finance and Revenue].

763. The Excise Administration in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and in Darjeeling was conducted under the Bengal Excise Act, V of 1909, and the rules framed thereunder. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Act, I of 1910, was not extended to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam as the various necessary notifications and rules had not been prepared, and consequently the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions continued to be guided by the old Bengal Act, VII of 1878, with the rules contained in the Bengal Excise Manual, 1903. The Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Act, I of 1910, and the statutory notifications and the rules framed thereunder were brought into force in these divisions with effect from the 1st April last, and the result is that two different Acts and sets of rules are now in force over different areas in the Presidency. This is not convenient for Excise Administration, and steps are being taken to amend the Bengal Excise Act, V of 1909, and the statutory rules and notifications so as to make them applicable to the whole Presidency. It is hoped that these amendments will be made in time to permit of the extension of the Act to the whole Presidency at the beginning of the next financial year. **Administrative changes.**

Season licenses for the sale of fermented *tari* in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Burdwan and Murshidabad were abolished and regular shops substituted. The two joint reports into the questions of the location of excise and opium shops on both sides of the boundaries between British India and Cooch Behar and the Hill Tippera States referred to in paragraph 2 (IV) of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Report of 1910-1911 were taken into consideration during the year, but no definite decision had been arrived at when the year closed. Both questions are now before Government. Maximum prices for country spirit were laid down in the Jalpaiguri district, and it is expected that this will have some effect in reducing the imports from Bhutan.

Restrictions were imposed during the year on the import of opium, *ganja* or *bhang* preparations from foreign countries. The rules regarding the limit of

possession and sale of cocaine and similar preparations were revised during the year, and the restrictions regarding these articles have now been made more stringent.

Local Advisory Committees.

764. Local committees consisting of both official and non-official members were formed in 18 towns, which have a population of 20,000 or over, to consider, and advise the Collector on, the proposals regarding the licensing, number and situation of liquor shops for the year 1912-1913. Local and municipal bodies were also consulted in the matter of sites of liquor shops in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, while in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions they were consulted in respect of every kind of excise or opium shops. No new shop was opened without consulting local opinion and without an ascertained local demand. In accordance with the recommendations of committees or in deference to local opinion the sites of 16 shops were changed to unobjectionable localities and two shops were altogether closed. In Chittagong, one new *tari* shop was proposed to be opened to meet the demand from coolies at the jetties and mills, but the proposal was dropped on an objection being raised by the Municipality. In Calcutta no local committee was appointed during the year, as the licenses for the sale of country spirit and for the retail "on" and "off" sale of foreign liquor had been settled for three years with effect from the 1st April 1910. The sites were considered and approved by the Committee which sat in 1909-1910.

Revenue.

765. The total excise revenue for the year was Rs. 1,33,89,707, an increase of Rs. 7,80,382 on the previous year. There was an increase under every head except foreign liquor, *majum* and denatured spirit. The largest increase of revenue (Rs. 3,33,103) occurred under the head "country spirit." Opium came next with an increase of Rs. 1,90,570 followed by *gania* (Rs. 1,78,719), *pachwai* (Rs. 72,493), and *siddhi* (Rs. 21,723). The incidence of excise revenue was 4 annas 8 pies per head of population against 4 annas 5 pies in the previous year.

Country spirit.

766. There was no change in the systems of supply of country spirit during the year. The total consumption of contract and distillery spirits was 796,784 gallons L.P. as compared with 776,542 gallons L.P. in 1910-1911. Calcutta alone shows a rise of 10,421 gallons, which is due partly to the substitution of country spirit for cheap foreign liquor, and partly to the large influx into the city at the time of Their Imperial Majesties' visit.

The total revenue from country spirit rose from Rs. 58,48,629 in 1910-1911 to Rs. 61,81,642. The increase from duty, which represents the increase in consumption was Rs. 92,509, while the increase from license fees, which means an increase of cost to the consumer, was Rs. 2,38,544. There were six less shops for the retail sale of country liquor than in the previous year.

Tari.

767. There was little variation in the number of licenses and in revenue. The receipts were Rs. 4,26,494 against Rs. 4,22,716 and the number of licenses 1,919 against 1,866. There is little *tari* revenue in Eastern and Northern Bengal. The Presidency and Burdwan Divisions contributed Rs. 3,83,318.

Pachwai.

768. The total number of licenses issued was 18,162 as compared with 19,032 in the previous year. The receipts rose from Rs. 7,44,936 to Rs. 8,17,429. The increase in vend fees was most marked in the Burdwan Division, where there was a fall in the consumption of country liquor. The rise is said to be due to the fall in the price of rice. The privilege of home-brewing under a fixed fee was withdrawn from the Districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna.

Foreign liquor.

769. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquor was 806 against 819 in the previous year. The decrease was chiefly due to the issue of a smaller number of bar-licenses for theatres and other places of amusement in Calcutta. The total receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 3,51,945 as compared with Rs. 3,95,895 in 1910-1911. There was some increase in the import of light German beer, which appears to be growing in popularity at the expense of British beer. During the year the prohibition against the sale of foreign liquor of strengths weaker than 25° U.P. was strictly enforced.

Ganja.

770. There was a net increase of 53 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* consumed within the Presidency, almost entirely in Eastern and Northern

Bengal. The increase is attributed to agricultural prosperity in these areas. Of the increased income, Rs. 1,25,026 was obtained from license fees, the highest rise, Rs. 53,822, being in Calcutta. A proposal is under consideration to increase the duty while lowering the license fees so as to obviate the temptation to cut prices and recoup the license fees by means of increased sales.

Siddhi or bhang.

771. The total consumption within the Presidency amounted to 817 maunds against 689 maunds in the previous year, though the number of licenses issued for retail sale fell from 271 to 231. In Calcutta, the system of allowing retail vendors of *ganja* to sell *bhang* on payment of a fixed fee was replaced by the settlement by auction of separate *bhang* licenses. There was considerable competition and an increase of over Rs. 13,000 in license fees, as well as a cutting of prices among the vendors which lowered the retail price of the drug considerably. This, together with the large influx of people into the city during Their Imperial Majesties' visit, accounts for the great increase of 164 maunds in the consumption of *bhang* in Calcutta. The revenue from license fees and duty rose from Rs. 79,712 to Rs. 1,01,435.

Opium.

772. The consumption of opium in the province increased by 43 maunds 19 seers and the total revenue by Rs. 1,90,570. The largest increase in consumption was in Calcutta (8 maunds 4 seers) and was principally due to supplies to the military authorities. Of the total increase in revenue, only Rs. 37,528 was from duty on increased consumption and the remainder was due to higher license fees, especially in Calcutta, where the increase under this head amounted to Rs. 1,15,703. The question of controlling the sale of opium has recently been the subject of a Resolution by the Government of India, and the Local Government have already taken such measures as appear feasible to strengthen the control. The number of druggists' permits has been reduced from 1,257 to 771 and 126 shops have been abolished from 1st April 1912. In five of the principal consuming districts, the issues to shops are carefully limited to the ascertained reasonable demand of the locality, and the number of prosecutions for illicit sale and possession of opium has considerably increased. It is believed that the increased vigilance exercised has been successful to a large extent in forcing smugglers to obtain their supplies elsewhere, and the question of dealing with the illicit trade by inter-Provincial co-operation and a uniform scale of prices is under consideration.

Cocaine novocaine, etc.

773. During the year coca leaves, all alkaloids of coca and all drugs, preparations or admixtures thereof having a like physiological effect to that of cocaine, came within the purview of the Bengal Excise law, and the rules relating to the sale and limit of possession of these drugs underwent revision. The principal feature of the new rules is that possession by private persons, except under the *bonâ fide* prescription of a duly-qualified medical practitioner, of any of these drugs is absolutely forbidden. Maximum limits of possession under such prescriptions have also been prescribed.

The number of persons convicted of illicit sale and possession of cocaine was 631 against 317 in the previous year. In Calcutta, the quantity of the drug seized in cases of illicit possession was 310¾ ounces. The Customs officers made important seizures, in which 264 ounces of the drug were confiscated. An enormous demand for the drug as an intoxicant exists and its illicit price is so high that smuggling operations continue to be remarkably profitable. The Customs and Excise officers in Calcutta have been very vigilant, and the year's operations against the illicit dealers have been eminently satisfactory. The increase in the traffic in Calcutta and the activity of the Preventive officers, are evidenced by the following figures which give the number of convictions during the past four years :—

1908-1909	... 123	1910-1911	... 270
1909-1910	... 258	1911-1912	... 559

It is to be regretted that Europeans have come forward to participate in the illicit traffic and are lending their ingenuity in furtherance of the trade. The Collector of Burdwan reports that the cocaine habit is spreading to a considerable extent in the towns of Burdwan, Raniganj and Asansol.

Excise Offences.

774. The number of prosecutions was 2,904 against 2,899 in the previous year. Cocaine cases account for the great increase in Calcutta (478). The number of persons convicted fell from 2,606 to 2,564. Although there has been an improvement in the sentences passed by Magistrates in important cases under the Opium or Excise Laws, there is still a considerable proportion of inadequate sentences. In cases where inadequate sentences were passed, the fact was brought to the notice of the trying Magistrate by district officers. A satisfactory feature of the year is the large increase in the number of sentences of imprisonment.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department, 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*).—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue.

775. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts, amounted to Rs. 2,01,08,883 against Rs. 1,93,87,017 in the preceding year, showing an increase of Rs. 7,21,866. This increase occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps. The total charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,22,025 against Rs. 5,12,643 in the previous year, the increase over the figures of 1910-1911 occurring under the head "Discount and Establishment for Sale of Stamps."

Judicial Stamps.

776. The sale-proceeds from court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 1,28,25,350 to Rs. 1,32,00,023, an increase of Rs. 3,74,673. The greater portion of the increase was contributed by the districts of Backergunge (Rs. 69,565), Calcutta (Rs. 53,886), Mymensingh (Rs. 47,480), Jalpaiguri (Rs. 44,857), Khulna (Rs. 33,663), Dacca (Rs. 32,770) and Faridpur (Rs. 26,358). The larger revenue in Calcutta is attributed to the receipt of heavy court-fees on account of duty paid on probates and letters of administration. The increase in the several districts of the Dacca Division, aggregating Rs. 1,76,173, is said to be due partly to the normal increase of litigation arising from increase of population and other causes, and partly to the effect of the settlement operations which have but recently been concluded in Backergunge district and are in progress in the other three districts of the Dacca Division. The increase in Jalpaiguri is attributed to the sale of court-fee stamps, amounting to Rs. 25,940, to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar for a succession certificate.

Non-Judicial Stamps.

777. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps increased by Rs. 3,19,020. Of this, as much as Rs. 1,49,365 was obtained in Calcutta alone, and is ascribed to a general improvement in trade. The other districts, which show the greater increase, are Tippera (Rs. 32,739), Chittagong (Rs. 28,160), Backegunge (Rs. 25,584), Noakhali (Rs. 21,228) and Faridpur (Rs. 19,539). These large increases are not attributed to any specific cause by the local officers, except that in the district of Chittagong an increase from Rs. 5,059 to Rs. 29,126 in the sale of adhesive stamps is said to be due to the establishment of a large number of Insurance companies during the year. The large decrease under head "Miscellaneous Receipts" is mainly due to the fact that fewer loans were floated by the Corporation of Calcutta and the Calcutta Port Trust, resulting in a decrease in the amount of composition duty paid by them.

Sale of Stamps.

778. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year was 4,845, *i.e.*, 153 less than in the previous year. Owing to a comment by the Board on the apparently excessive number of vendors in the Midnapore district, an enquiry was made in 1910-1911, which resulted in the number being reduced by 41. During the year under review the number there was further reduced by 139. The discount allowed to vendors rose by Rs. 13,132 in consequence of the rise in the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps.

Deficient Duty.

779. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the year decreased by 208, and the amount of duty and penalty realized, by Rs. 1,064. The total number of cases decided by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act rose from 2,980 to 3,195, but the amount

of duty and penalty realized decreased by Rs. 7,965. In Calcutta, the average amount of duty and penalty realized in each case was more than Rs. 80; in other districts, it was generally less than Rs. 10. This noticeable variation is probably due to the fact that, in the mufassal districts, the majority of cases in which deficit duty is paid are those of deeds executed for small amounts by persons ignorant of the provisions of the law and unable to obtain legal advice.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

780. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 1,812 in which 1,898 persons were brought to trial and 1,866 convicted as against 1,643 cases and 1,636 persons convicted in the preceding year. The fines imposed, including composition money, aggregated Rs. 7,279 as against Rs. 5,541 in 1910-1911. The amount of rewards paid to informers (which were confined to Calcutta) was Rs. 779 less than in the previous year. This is ascribed to the fact that a smaller number of cases was compounded under section 70 (2) of the Stamp Act.

Working of section 19-H. of the Court-fees Act.

781. Enquiries were made in 75·5 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of probates or letters of administration reported during the year. The corresponding percentage of the previous year was 74·8. The proportion borne by the deficit court-fees realized to the amount originally paid was 5·4 as compared with 6·5 in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*).—Finance and Revenue.]

Financial results.

782. The receipts, charges and net revenue of the years 1910-1911 and 1911-1912 are compared below :—

Year.	Receipts.	Charges.	Percentage of charges.	Net revenue.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
1911-1912 ...	53,47,764	1,71,148	3·2	51,76,616
1910-1911 ...	51,53,978	1,65,704	3·2	49,88,274

The net revenue showed an increase of 3·8 per cent., as compared with a decrease of 3·8 per cent. in 1910-1911.

Collections.

783. The total collections on account of tax during the year showed an increase of Rs. 1,34,143, or 2·7 per cent., in comparison with the previous year. The increase was obtained under all Parts, except Part II (Profits of Companies), which showed a decrease of Rs. 20,085 or 2·2 per cent. This decrease under Part II was chiefly due to collections in Calcutta having fallen from Rs. 8,99,068 in 1910-1911 to Rs. 8,71,343 in 1911-1912 owing to the depression in the coal, jute and gunny trades in the period upon which the assessments for the latter year were based. The percentage of collections on the final demand on account of tax for the year was 95·9, as against 94·2 during the year 1910-1911. The total cost of assessment and collection during the year shows an increase of Rs. 5,444 or 3·3 per cent. in comparison with the previous year, owing chiefly to the grant of a personal allowance to the Collector of Income-tax, Calcutta, and to the revision of the pay of the clerical staff of his office.

Assessment

784. The final number of assessees and the final demand for 1911-1912 showed an increase of 2,086 persons and Rs. 31,829, or 4·5 and ·7 per cent. as compared with an increase of ·5 and a decrease of 3·05 per cent., respectively, during the previous year. Of these increases, Calcutta contributed 506 persons and Rs. 10,993, or 24·3 and 34·5 per cent., respectively, a result which is mainly attributed to the favourable state of the piece-goods market. The total number of assessees in the lowest class of Part IV (that is those assessed on an income of Rs. 1,000, but less than Rs. 1,250) was 11,226 against 11,093 of the previous year, showing an increase of 133 or 1·2 per cent.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Receipts and expenditure.

785. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1911-1912 as compared with those of 1910-1911 :—

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

RECEIPTS.	ACTUALS. 1910-1911.	ACTUALS. 1911-1912.	EXPENDITURE.	ACTUALS. 1910-1911.	ACTUALS. 1911-1912.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Principal heads of Revenue—			Direct demand on the revenues—		
I.—Land Revenue	1,57,35	1,57,27	1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,59	1,54
IV.—Stamps	96,93	1,00,56	2. Assignments and Compensations ...	36	38
V.—Excise	62,98	1,00,41	3. Land Revenue	29,17	35,09
VI.—Provincial Rates	32,59	31,75	6. Stamps	3,04	3,22
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	25,78	26,73	7. Excise	3,96	4,74
IX.—Forests	7,02	13,87	8. Provincial Rates	44	50
X.—Registration	16,31	17,34	10. Assessed Taxes	75	78
Total ...	3,98,93	4,47,93	11. Forests	3,31	7,06
			12. Registration	10,28	10,67
XII.—Interest	6,31	5,22	Total ...	51,90	63,98
			13. Interest on ordinary debt	4,85	5,10
			Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
Receipts by Civil Department—			18. General Administration	21,74	37,35
XVI.—Law and Justice—			19. Law and Justice—		
			Courts of Law	96,17	1,01,45
Courts of Law	7,65	7,61	Jails	20,70	20,51
Jails	6,39	8,31	20 Police	81,54	87,08
XVII.—Police	2,03	1,88	21. Ports and Pilotage	12,87	13,28
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	16,07	16,95	22. Education	53,34	61,22
XIX.—Education	6,78	7,33	24 Medical	24,37	26,15
XX.—Medical	2,67	3,63	25. Political	31	23
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	3,24	2,37	26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	14,61	14,81
Total ...	45,83	48,08	Total ...	3,25,65	3,62,08
			Miscellaneous—		
Miscellaneous—			29. Superannuation, etc.	26,22	27,86
			30. Stationery and Printing	16,54	15,79
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	36	43	32. Miscellaneous	5,77	5,60
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,40	1,30	Total ...	48,53	49,25
XXV.—Miscellaneous	6,14	6,35			
Total ...	7,90	8,08	Famine Relief and Insurance—		
			33. Famine Relief	60	60
			Railways (Revenue Account)—		
			40. Subsidized Companies—Land, etc.	...	...
Irrigation—			41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure	...	...
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	2,62	1,39	Total ...	60	60
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			Irrigation—		
			42. Major Works—		
By Public Works Department.	5,52	3,36	Working expenses	2·64	1,38
By Civil Department ...	54	25	Interest on debt	3,38	1,70
Total ...	8,68	5,00	43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department ...	14,40	7,83
			By Civil Department	2	2
			Total ...	20,44	10,93
Buildings and Roads—			Buildings and Roads—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—			45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department.	3,71	4,62	By Public Works Department ...	63,65	61,52
By Civil Department ...	1,53	1,55	By Civil Department	16,74	30,28
Total ...	5,24	6,17	Total ...	80,39	91,80
Total Receipts ...	4,72,89	5,20,48	Total Charges ...	5,32,36	5,83,74

Variations— (a) Receipts.

786. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was due to smaller collections from Government estates, chiefly in Chittagong and Midnapore, due to the pending of civil suits disputing the status and rent assigned at the recent settlement proceedings. The variations under the heads *Stamps, Excise and*

Assessed Taxes, which are divided heads, have been explained above in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Provincial Rates* was chiefly under collections of Public Works cess, owing mainly to the decreased valuation of coal mines in Burdwan arising from a decline in the coal industry. The receipts and charges of the *Forest Department* were made wholly Provincial in 1911-1912. The total actuals were less owing chiefly to short extraction of timber and firewood in the Sundarbans on account of tiger-scares. The increase under *Registration* was due to the annual growth of revenue. The decrease under *Interest* was under classes I and III of the Provincial loans account, and was due to smaller recoveries from cultivators and smaller payments by the Maharaja Sir Prodyat Kumar Tagore. The decrease under *Courts of Law* was under general fees, fines and forfeitures. The increase under *Jails* was for larger sale of manufactured articles. The decrease under *Police* was chiefly under fees, fines and miscellaneous, while the increase under *Ports and Pilotage* was partly under "pilotage" due to increase of trade and partly under "miscellaneous" due to a special receipt arising from the employment of the *Guide* under the Government of India as a station vessel at Port Blair and for the purpose of Nicobar Census. The increase under *Education* was chiefly for increased college and schooling fees and partly under "miscellaneous" for the refund of the loan from the Mohsin Fund. The decrease under *Medical* was nominal, and was due to a special receipt in 1910-1911 for the sale of a Clayton fumigating apparatus sold to the Port Commissioners in that year, while that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was for smaller sales of quinine to the medical depôts at Calcutta and Lahore cantonment. The increase under *Superannuation* was for larger recoveries of contributions from officers lent to foreign service. In 1910-1911 there were special receipts from the sale of general rules for the working of open lines of railways, and this explains the decrease under *Stationery and Printing* in 1911-1912. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was under unclaimed deposits. The receipts and charges of the Irrigation Department were divided equally between Imperial and Provincial revenues from 1911-1912, and hence the decrease in that year. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of Public Works Department* was for arrear recovery of Strand Bank rent and special receipts arising from the sale of stalls on the Maidan during the King's visit to Calcutta.

(b) Expenditure.

787. The decrease under *Refunds and Drawbacks* was chiefly under land revenue, while the increase under *Assignments and Compensations* was for special payments for resumed land in Darjeeling. The increase under *Land Revenue* was for larger expenditure under management of Government estates, survey and settlement and for payment of increased salaries to ministerial officers in the mufassal as a result of the reorganization that took effect from May 1909 and for payment of the Royal bonus. The variations under *Stamps*, *Excise and Forests* have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increases under *Provincial Rates* and *Assessed Taxes* were due to the payment of arrear increase of pay of ministerial officers. The increase under *Registration* was nominal, and was chiefly due to the adjustment of the charges of both Eastern Bengal and Western Bengal superintendence charges to the *pro formâ* accounts of new Bengal; it was also due in part to the opening of new Sub-Registry offices. The increase under *General Administration* was partly under Executive Council, as the charges for 12 months were paid this year against 3½ months in 1910-1911, but was chiefly due to the debit of Rs. 7,76,000 on account of the Royal visit and also for the appointment of several officers on special duty in the Civil Secretariat. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* arose from the appointment of three additional Judges to the High Court and the increase of pay of ministerial officers with arrears from the 23rd May 1909. The decrease under *Jails* was in expenses of jails proper and dietary charges, while the increase under *Police* was for the payment of the Royal bonus and police reforms carried out during the year. The increase under *Ports and Pilotage* was partly under earnings and allowances of pilots due to increased receipts and partly for the postponement to next year of the adjustment of recoveries by the Agent, Government Consignments, owing to the delay in the submission of recovery claims of the last two months of the year. The increase under

Education was distributed to the sub-heads Direction, Inspection, Government Colleges, for an increase in the training staff in Arts Colleges, Government Schools, Grants-in-aid and Scholarships, while that under *Medical* was for grants for improvements of hospitals and dispensaries and for the employment of Dr. Craik in connection with the improvement of Calcutta. The decrease under *Political* was for smaller payments for Durbar presents in the Presidency, while the increase under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was for larger expenditure on agriculture and inspection of factories. The increase under *Superannuation* was attributed to the annual growth of expenditure under pensions, while the decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was for smaller expenditure on stationery supplied from the Central Stores owing to the introduction of the book credit system under which the supply of stationery is limited to the amount of credit allotted to each officer. The decrease under *Miscellaneous* was for smaller payments of contributions in the Eastern Bengal districts and smaller charges for special commissions of enquiry. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to the payment of Rs. 11,50,000 to the Calcutta Improvement Trust and for increased expenditure on non-recurring outlay on sanitation.

Local Funds.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1911-1912.]

Balances.

788. The following table shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1911-1912 :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	22,39,930	64,15,843	86,55,773	63,09,134	23,46,639
District Road Fund (Darjeeling)	25,825	60,830	86,655	63,486	23,169
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,032	8,565	9,597	8,569	1,028
Barrackpore	8,450	52,384	60,834	50,221	10,613
Dum-Dum	5,885	22,595	28,480	22,041	6,439
Jalapahar	786	5,813	6,599	6,036	563
Lebong	1,421	6,020	7,441	7,442	—1
Buxa Duars	72	1,386	1,458	1,157	301
Total ...	17,646	96,763	1,14,409	95,466	18,943
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	119	3,575	3,694	3,625	69
Dum-Dum	4	1,060	1,064	1,062	2
Jalapahar	.....	750	750	625	125
Total ...	123	5,385	5,508	5,312	196
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar	10,319	6,805	17,124	10,910	6,214
Jalpaiguri Western Duars Market.	17,666	35,484	53,150	37,336	15,814
Total ...	27,985	42,289	70,274	48,246	22,028
Police Funds—					
District Chowkidari Reward	1,13,679	51,718	1,66,397	61,619	1,04,778
Foundling Asylum ...	13	3,486	3,499	3,485	14
Fire Brigade	53,502	1,98,612	2,52,114	1,69,712	82,402
Total ...	1,68,194	2,53,816	4,22,010	2,34,816	1,87,194

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	—1,277	1,12,601	1,11,324	99,860	11,464
Ditto (Chittagong).	681	6,171	6,852	5,763	1,089
Chittagong Port Fund ...	1,38,562	3,27,039	4,65,601	2,99,276	1,66,325
Total ..	1,37,966	4,45,811	5,83,777	4,04,899	1,78,878
Education Funds—					
Hindu College ...	1,243	4,752	5,995	3,454	2,541
Durga Charan Laha's ...	.....	2,220	2,220	2,220	.....
Total ...	1,243	6,972	8,215	5,674	2,541
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrims' Lodging House	13,519	14,039	27,558	10,292	17,266
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	1,727	1,222	2,949	.....	2,949
Ram Lal Mukharjee's Endowment.	5,626	2,769	8,395	2,000	6,395
Joy Gobind Laha's ...	15,247	4,140	19,387	.....	19,387
Imambara Hospital ...	3,547	13,837	17,384	13,762	3,622
Chittagong General Hospital	7,726	18,883	26,609	16,668	9,941
Total ...	47,392	54,890	1,02,282	42,722	59,560
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement ...	35,426	1,05,000	1,40,426	94,927	45,499
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection ...	23,832	79,151	1,02,983	81,868	21,115
Zoological Garden ...	25,071	79,885	1,04,956	97,958	6,998
Mohsin Endowment ...	16,008	1,03,969	1,19,977	98,977	21,000
Christian Burial Board ...	13,688	21,287	34,975	20,907	14,068
Muhammadan Burial Board	579	1,900	2,479	1,895	584
Total ...	79,178	2,86,192	3,65,370	3,01,605	63,765
Grand Total ...	27,80,908	77,73,791	1,05,54,699	76,06,287	29,48,412

Grants.

789. The grants made to the Cantonment Funds by the Military Department were (Buxa Duar) Rs. 1,253, (Jalapahar) Rs. 3,726 and (Lebong) Rs. 3,903. The deficit opening balance of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, Rs. 1,277, was met by the sale of securities to the extent of Rs. 35,000. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a grant of Rs. 446. The temporary Government grant of Rs. 9,000 made to the Mohsin Endowment Fund in 1910-1911 to meet the deficit was refunded in 1911-1912.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Land Revenue Administration Report of Bengal, 1911-1912.]

Rate.

790. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, the road and public works cesses were levied throughout the Presidency at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands or annual net profits of mines and other immoveable properties.

Demand and collection.

791. The current demand of land revenue for the cess-paying districts was Rs. 2,69,35,044, and the valuation or gross-rental amounted to Rs. 11,34,70,394. The land revenue thus works out at 23·7 per cent. of the rental. The total demand of both cesses was Rs. 71,96,422 including

Rs. 9,78,756 of arrears. The total collections amounted to Rs. 63,08,656. The current demand exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 14,309. The demand decreased in some districts and increased in others. The main decrease was in Burdwan (Rs. 50,639), where the annual revision of assessment of the coal mines resulted in a considerable reduction in the valuation owing to the dulness of the industry. The increases resulting from revaluations in other districts, however, more than wiped out this deficit. The collections during the year were better than those of the previous year, and the balances slightly decreased. The remissions were somewhat larger than in the previous year. The principal item was a remission of Rs. 77,478 in Burdwan, due principally to the revision of the assessments on the coal mines of that district. The standard of collection is 100 per cent. Fifteen districts attained or exceeded that percentage. No portion of the arrear cess demand became barred by limitation in any of the districts of the Province.

Working of the certificate procedure.

792. The number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 54,447 as against 42,899 in the previous year. The increase was most marked in Chittagong, where 15,011 certificates were filed as against 5,072 in the previous year. It is explained that at the recent general valuation some 9,000 revenue-free estates were for the first time assessed and that their owners could not for the most part be got to pay the cess amicably. In other districts the increase was mostly due to the accumulation of petty arrears, which had ultimately to be certificated to avoid their being barred by limitation. Including 13,497 certificates pending from the previous year, the number of certificates for disposal aggregated 67,944. Of these 53,006 were disposed of, and the number pending at the close of the year was 14,938 as against 10,993 at the end of 1910-1911. The number of cases pending over six months was only 829. The mere issue of preliminary notices under the Certificate Act was sufficient to secure payments in 12,021 cases ; while notices for the attachment of property, moveable and immoveable, induced payment in 28,552 cases. Sales actually took place in only 836 cases.

Valuations and revaluations.

793. The chief features of the year's work were the completion of the important revaluation in Backergunge and the initiation of general revaluation proceedings in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Dinajpur and Bogra. Certain complaints have been received, however, as to the manner in which the revaluation in Backergunge was conducted, and the matter is now under investigation. The work of revaluation in the districts of Faridpur and Jalpaiguri is being carried on by the Settlement Department.

Education Cesses.

Nil.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Reports of the Sanitary Commissioners, Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, for 1911. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

794. During the months of January and February the rainfall was below the average, but in March and April it was general over the whole province. The monsoon broke on the 11th June with heavy rains. The depression soon disappeared only to form again a few days later, heavy falls of rain being the result. In July and August the rainfall was most erratic, and, although it again became general in September and October, the monsoon rainfall was deficient everywhere, except in the Eastern Bengal districts where the rainfall was fairly well distributed and fell in season.

Births and deaths.

795. The birth-rate for the year was 34·97. This is higher than last year's rate by ·21. Of the Eastern Bengal districts, the birth-rate rose in four and fell in ten; the rates of births in urban areas was higher, and that in rural areas was lower, than the mean rates of the previous five years. The provincial death-rate was 26·94. A higher rate was returned in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions, the increased mortality being chiefly due to plague and fever, while the Eastern Bengal districts report the lowest death-rate yet recorded by them. In comparison with other provinces, Bengal stood sixth in the order of birth-rates and fifth as regards death-rates. Increased attention was paid to the registration of vital statistics, and verification by the inspecting staff was conducted on a larger scale than in the previous year. The Khulna district is again the worst offender. Vital statistics, as at present recorded, are not sufficiently accurate to admit of any wide generalisation being made. The question of the improvement of statistics in compulsory areas is at present under the consideration of Government.

Cholera.

796. There was a satisfactory fall in the mortality from this cause during 1911. The number of deaths was 67,750 as compared with 119,686 during the previous year. Disinfection of wells with permanganate of potash was again resorted to in some districts. In 1909 and 1910 work on the Lower Ganges Bridge was seriously hindered by outbreaks of cholera. Accordingly special arrangements were made there to protect the labour force from the disease. The area occupied by the labour force and part of the surrounding country have been divided into sections, each in charge of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon; with the help of the *panchayat* and the good will of the villagers immediate information is obtained of the occurrence of any suspicious cases of cholera: arrangements are made for their early treatment, and sanitary precautions are adopted. Tube wells are being sunk, which are much appreciated by the people. These protective measures have so far been very promising.

Fevers.

797. There was a fall from 921,813 to 882,276 in the total number of deaths recorded. Fevers were responsible for 72·22 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes during the year, the corresponding figures for the last year being 70·14. The highest ratios were reported from the Dinajpur (35·47) and Malda (32·30) districts. In the Malda district there appears to have been a serious epidemic of a similar nature to the one of 1905—1907. The epidemic began in the latter part of July, and up to the end of December is said to have been responsible for the death of 22,677 people. Special arrangements were made for the free distribution of quinine through the District Board. In eight of the districts the ratio was over 25 per mille. Among towns, Kumarkhali in the district of Nadia was the most feverish and lost 37·41 per mille of its population.

Anti-malarial measures were continued in North Barrackpore almost entirely at the cost of Government, and are now being wound up. The operations in Jalpaiguri have been discontinued as being unlikely to yield any

marked result, and those in Dinajpur are still in progress. Anti-malarial measures were only carried out fully in six towns. Major Fry, Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, was at work in the district of Jessore and elsewhere; and in Dacca, Captain McCombie Young made experiments with a view to reduce the number of mosquitœs which infest the civil station during the cold weather. In accordance with a scheme drafted by the Sanitary Board of Eastern Bengal in 1910 for the systematic investigation of morbidity and mortality in type areas, test enquiries were put into operation during 1911 in the two districts of Dacca and Rajshahi under the charge of Dr. Bentley, with a staff of 19 Sub-Assistant and 4 Assistant Surgeons. In this work remedial measures are combined with statistical enquiries. The result of their investigations leads to the conclusion that little permanent benefit is likely to accrue in Bengal by any attempt to eradicate mosquitoes by destroying larvæ. Until fuller information as to the causes underlying the prevalence of malaria, in what is called the hyper-endemic area which consists of part of Murshidabad and Jessore, is obtained, the only method of procedure which seems to hold out hopes of success is to reduce the infection rate by the use of quinine. Sub-Assistant Surgeons were again deputed to distribute quinine gratuitously. In Jessore, quinine hydrochloride in "treatments" was exclusively used, and is said to have been very efficacious and much appreciated by the people. The sale of quinine was the largest in the districts of Burdwan, Khulna, Nadia, Backergunge and Malda.

Provincial Malaria Committee.

798. The Provincial Malaria Committee discussed the following subjects during the year :—

(1) Teaching of malarial prophylaxis in schools.
(2) Popularization of the use of quinine.
(3) Diffusion of knowledge in malaria prevention.
(4) Distribution of quinine in "treatments."
(5) The connection between drainage conditions and malarial problems.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

799. The ratio under this head rose from ·48 during 1910 to ·49 during the year. As usual, the death-rate in towns (2·06) was considerably higher than in rural areas. Dysentery prevailed with the greatest intensity in Bengal during the last quarter of the year. There was a high rate of mortality in the Dacca district, while the prevalence of the disease was very mild in Nadia and Khulna.

Injury.

800. Deaths from snake-bite numbered 5,678 against 5,757 in the preceding year, and there was an increase in the total number of casualties from injury from 17,520 to 18,119. Fourteen cases of snake-bite were treated with permanganate of potash, and in 11 out of these the patients were discharged as cured, while one case ended fatally, the result of the remaining two cases being unknown. Three persons were treated with anti-venene, and one recovered. Lancets with permanganate of potash and pamphlets of instructions were distributed among presidents of *panchayats* and vaccinators in the 24-Parganas. Jessore and Nadia again provided the largest number of cases of suicide, and the number of females who perished in this way was again double the number of males.

Plague.

Plague.

801. There were 1,879 deaths from plague, of which 1,736 occurred in Calcutta, 79 in Howrah and 33 in the 24-Parganas. Sixteen districts were entirely free from plague. A small epidemic occurred in the Faridpur district in August and accounted for 17 deaths. In Calcutta the mortality was 1·93 per mille. Inoculation was carried out in 23 cases, as compared with none in the preceding year. No attacks or deaths from plague were reported amongst the inoculated. Evacuation of infected houses continues to be the most popular of all measures for the suppression of plague, and proved very useful wherever it was adopted in time. Disinfection of infected houses by the sun's rays and by the use of kerosene oil emulsion was also practised. In Calcutta the eradication of rats was stimulated by the payment of rewards to rat-catchers.

LIBRARY ASIATIC SOCIETY

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1911. Statistics of British India. Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Administrative measures.

802. The most important event of the year was the prohibition of emigration to Natal by a notification issued by the Government of India under section 5 of Act XVII of 1908, as amended by Act XIV of 1910. Among other questions which arose during the year may be mentioned the amendment of the rules relating to the survey of emigrant vessels, the treatment of emigrants suffering from anchylostomiasis (a disease due to an intestinal parasite, which had been found prevalent among immigrants to British Guiana), and the limitation of the fees charged on the release of registered emigrants before embarkation.

Depots and despatch of emigrants.

803. As in the previous year, there were five emigration agencies in Calcutta, all of which worked on behalf of the British Colonies. The total number of labourers requisitioned in 1911 was 9,706 as against 12,153 in 1910. The number supplied was 8,861 as against 8,340. No requisition was received from Mauritius. Though the supply did not fall so far short of the demand as it did in the previous year, there was some difficulty in securing recruits, which is attributed to good harvests, the increase in the local demand for labour in recruiting districts, and the competition of garden sardars recruiting for the tea gardens of Assam.

Recruitment and registration of emigrants.

804. The number of licenses issued to recruiters in 1911 was 724 as compared with 658 in 1910: 22 licenses were cancelled during the year. Operations were conducted in Bengal, Bihar, the United Provinces, Ajmer, and the Punjab, but no recruitments were made this year in the Central Provinces: 72 per cent. of the emigrants registered came from the United Provinces. The total number of emigrants registered was 12,716, being almost the same number as last year: 1,152 were rejected as unfit, 52 deserted, and 78 were released from their engagements. The deductions on these accounts give a percentage of 11·61 as against 14·91 in the previous year. Five per cent. of the persons who actually embarked were returned emigrants who volunteered for registration. The largest number of emigrants —2,242—went to Trinidad, followed by Fiji with 2,233, and Demerara with 2,120: 1,656 emigrants left for Natal during the year before emigration to that Colony was stopped.

Sanitary arrangements in depots.

805. The sanitary conditions of the depôts at Garden Reach were reported to be satisfactory by the Medical Inspector. The efficiency of the arrangements is further shown by a decrease in the percentages both of sickness and of death. The former shows a decrease from 9·45 to 7·43 per cent. and the latter a decrease from ·67 to ·31 per. cent. A new segregation hospital for the open-air treatment of cerebro-spinal meningitis was opened in the British Guiana Emigration Depôt during the year, and the results so far achieved are encouraging. The system is to be given a year's trial. The figures in respect of this disease show a decrease from 96 cases with 49 deaths in 1910 to 29 cases with 17 deaths in 1911. Cerebro-spinal meningitis still continues to account for the largest number of deaths in the depôts.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

806. Four thousand three hundred and fifty emigrants left the Colonies during the year, bringing with them aggregate savings to the extent of Rs. 6,80,032. The average savings brought back is Rs. 156-5-3 per head as compared with Rs. 152-14-10 in 1910. Remittances to India by resident immigrants in Natal again showed a large excess over all other Colonies, the nearest approach to Natal's (Rs. 10,00,000) being the Seychelles with a little over a lakh. It is probable, however, that the Natal figures include remittances by traders and other Indian immigrants, who are not labourers. Three hundred and ninety-two estates of deceased emigrants, valued at Rs. 31,156, were administered by Government during the year. Of these, the heirs of 202 have been traced. Seventy-four lapsed to the Indian and Colonial Governments, and the cases of the rest were under inquiry at the end of the year.

Inland Emigration.

[The Reports of the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, and of the districts of the Province of Bihar and Orissa, on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), during the year ending the 30th June 1912.]

Administrative changes.

807. As the reports relate to the year ending 30th June 1912, the figures refer not only to areas situated in the new Presidency of Bengal, but also to areas which have been now transferred to the province of Bihar and Orissa in consequence of the territorial rearrangements which took place on the 1st April 1912. During the year certain important administrative changes were introduced in connection with the working of Act VI of 1901. As a measure of decentralization, all officers in charge of districts were appointed to be Superintendents of Emigration for their districts, with effect from 1st January 1912, while the jurisdiction of the Protector of Emigrants as Superintendent of Inland Emigration, which had hitherto included the whole of the old province of Bengal (excepting the Chota Nagpur Division and the districts of the Santal Parganas and Sambalpur), was limited to the town of Calcutta, the districts of Hooghly and Howrah and the Presidency Division. The Inland Emigration Manual was revised and brought up to date, and it now embodies provisions which give effect to some of the recommendations of the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee of 1906, particularly those regarding the licensing of contractors and recruiters. The rules have also been recast so as to afford the officers who have to administer them a more convenient guide in the performance of their duties.

Malpractices.

808. During the year the attention of Government was drawn to the malpractices of a class of unlicensed persons who smuggled labourers from Chota Nagpur, and made them over to licensed contractors working in the adjoining districts of Midnapore and Burdwan. The depôts at Asansol where this illegal recruiting was most prevalent were closed by order of the Superintendent of Emigration, and Government again drew the attention of the local officers to the necessity for thorough inquiry where there was reason to suspect that any improper procedure had been adopted in connection with the recruitment of an emigrant presented for registration. Suitable steps were also taken to prevent the issue of licenses by District Magistrates to persons whose applications had previously been rejected by the Protector of Emigrants. It is gratifying to note that the relaxation of the provisions of Chapter IV of the Act in favour of certain associations of employers and the consequent freedom from control enjoyed by the local agents of such associations were on the whole attended by satisfactory results. Some cases of malpractice in connection with sardari recruitment came to light during the year.

Number of emigrants.

809. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Madras, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and adjoining Native States who embarked at Goalundo during the year was 53,577, as compared with 37,675 in the preceding year. Of this number, 4,319 were recruited by licensed contractors and 44,479 by garden-sardars of all classes, as against 7,226 and 26,727, respectively, in the year 1910-1911. The number engaged by special sardars under section 90 was 43, or 14 less than the number recruited in the preceding year. A disquieting feature of the year's working of the Act was the excess of females over males among the emigrants recruited from the Native States. The number of such emigrants rose from 3,722 in 1910-1911 to 4,789 in 1911-1912, the corresponding figures for 1909-1910 being 1,276. This gradual increase in the number of recruits from the Native States is a matter of deep concern, since recruitment must have taken place in defiance of the prohibitions which the Chiefs are known to place upon emigration from their States. This question demands and will receive the serious attention of Government, and steps will be taken to investigate this aspect of recruitment and to put a stop to such abuses as the investigation may bring to light. There was an increase in the number of emigrants recruited under Chapter IV of the Act, but the increase was particularly marked in the case of unindentured emigrants recruited by garden-sardars working under approved associations, whose number rose from 23,621 in the year 1910-1911 to 40,666 in the present year. The figures tend

to show that the contractors' system is falling into disfavour, and that employers are gradually realizing that their interests are best served by a free system of labour.

The total number of emigrants registered under Chapters III and IV of the Act in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, including Chota Nagpur, was 2,851 and 2,377 respectively, compared with 6,440 and 2,045 respectively in the year 1910-1911. Of these, 226 emigrants recruited by licensed recruiters and 1,039 emigrants engaged by garden-sardars were forwarded to the labour districts without being placed on contract, as against 911 and 793 respectively in the preceding year. Forty-three emigrants as against 57 in the year 1910-1911 were recruited by garden-sardars holding special permits under section 90, while 19,934 unindentured emigrants were engaged by garden-sardars working under the control of approved associations, as against 11,798 in the year 1910-1911. The increase in the number of emigrants of the latter class is due to the large number of sardars sent down from Assam. The decrease in the number of emigrants recruited by specially employed garden sardars shows that this particular system still continues to be in disfavour.

Number of recruiting agents.

810. The number of licenses issued to contractors, sub-contractors and recruiters during the year fell from 24, 4 and 277 in the preceding year to 18, 1 and 220 respectively. The licenses of 9 contractors and 84 recruiters were cancelled for irregularities and misconduct. The total number of garden-sardars employed in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was 12,795, or 3,149 more than in the year 1910-1911. Of these, 862 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV and 51 held special permits under section 91, while 11,882 worked under the control of recognized associations. As in the previous year, the work of the local agents of these associations is reported to have been generally satisfactory.

Condition of depots and rest-houses.

811. Depôts and rest-houses for emigrants were properly inspected and maintained in good sanitary condition throughout the year. No outbreak of epidemic disease was reported. There were no casualties of any kind among the 4,335 labourers despatched by licensed contractors who travelled to Goalundo, and only one out of the 4,319 emigrants who embarked for Assam, Cachar and Sylhet died on the voyage. Out of a total of 44,506 emigrants recruited by sardars, only 6 died on the way to Goalundo, and there were only 9 casualties among 44,469 emigrants who travelled to Assam by steamers Another very satisfactory feature of the year's working of the Act is the fact that of the 50,465 emigrants and dependants who were medically examined at Asansol, Calcutta and Goalundo, not a single person was detained for treatment or rejected as unfit and returned to his home.

Criminal cases.

812. The number of criminal cases in connection with recruitment rose from 95 to 133, though the number of persons convicted was only 63 as against 64 in the year 1909-1910.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in Bengal, 1911.—Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Number of patients

813. There was no change during the year in the number or classification of the hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta. The number of beds available was 1,824 against 1,724, and the daily average of patients occupying them was 1,336 against 1,251 in the previous year. The most notable event of the year was the opening of a new Surgical Block (called the Prince of Wales' Hospital) at the Medical College Hospital, where provision has been made for 88 beds (66 for males and 22 for females). This has removed a long-felt need, as the facilities for treating aseptic surgical cases were inadequate in the old hospital. The total number of patients treated in all classes of hospitals and dispensaries during the year was 339,672 against 345,599, or 5,927 less than

that in the previous year. Of the total number treated, 28,983 were indoor and 310,689 outdoor patients against 27,583 and 318,016, respectively, in 1910. The number of patients admitted into the Police Hospital increased by 333.

Diseases treated.

814. Although cholera was prevalent during the first part of the year, the total number of deaths registered from this cause was slightly less than in the previous year, the figures being 1,860 in 1911 and 1,901 in 1910. The number of cholera cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries increased from 634 in 1910 to 836 in 1911. Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers' method of treatment was used in a large number of cases, and no fewer than 141 (60·77 per cent.) recovered. The number of plague cases treated in the hospitals rose from 99 in 1910 to 211 in 1911. Many cases were treated with large doses of carbolic acid solution and stimulants. But the high mortality shows that this, like all other forms of medical treatment, is apparently quite futile in a disease like plague. An analysis of the 808 patients treated during the year in the Calcutta hospitals under the head "Tuberculosis of the lungs" showed that while out of 672 Indian patients 336 or 50 per cent. died of the disease, the mortality amongst the European patients was much less, viz., 32 out of 136 or 23·52 per cent. There was no epidemic of small-pox during the year, only 32 cases being treated in the various hospitals against 43 in 1910. There were 64 cases of beri-beri with 8 deaths. This great fall from the mortality of 1909 (which was 433) seems to refute the milled rice theory advanced for the causation of this disease. The total number of operations performed in all classes of dispensaries at the Presidency head-quarters was 34,807 against 35,790 in 1910. The number of operations performed at the Medical College Hospital fell from 10,636 in 1910 to 7,634 in 1911.

Income and expenditure.

815. Subscriptions and donations increased from Rs. 52,419 in 1910 to Rs. 57,107. The expenditure on diet increased in all but one hospital, the exception being the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, where the expenditure under this head fell from Rs. 6,665 in 1910 to 6,154 in 1911 owing to the decrease in the number of in-patients. The increase of expenditure under head "Inferior servants" by Rs. 11,143 was chiefly due to the employment of additional establishment for the Prince of Wales' Hospital. The total expenditure for all the hospitals amounted to Rs. 12,01,088 during the year, and the total income was Rs. 12,62,346.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of dispensaries.

816. During the year one dispensary was closed, and one, viz., the Hooghly Female Hospital, was amalgamated with the Hooghly Imambara Hospital. On the other hand 15 new institutions were opened. There were, therefore, 605 hospitals and dispensaries at the end of the year, of which 57 were Government institutions, 295 local fund, 46 railway, 74 private aided and 133 private non-aided. Besides these, one floating dispensary was maintained in each of the districts of Burdwan and Khulna to visit water-girt places situated at a distance from centres of medical relief. Arrangements were also made in 11 districts to depute medical officers in charge of dispensaries to render medical aid to the people at outlying markets.

Number of patients.

817. The total number of patients treated in all classes of hospitals and dispensaries was 4,775,037. Of these, 49,428 were in-door and 47,25,609 out-door patients, an increase of 765 and 282,614 respectively. The year 1911 was healthier than its predecessor, and the increase in the number of patients attending dispensaries in a healthier year is a sure index of the growing popularity of the medical institutions.

Diseases treated.

818. Deaths among the general population were less during the year, the death-rate per mille being 26·94 against 29·04 in 1910. Small-pox and cholera were less prevalent, and fewer patients were treated both in and out of hospitals. The number of admissions for plague increased from 2 in 1910 to 32 in 1911. A slight rise occurred in the number treated for "malaria." The figures for 1911 and 1910 were 10,65,404 and 10,63,451 respectively. Eighteen Sub-Assistant Surgeons were employed on special duty to render gratuitous medical aid in the malarious tracts of six districts. They treated 52,897 cases of malaria, and Government quinine (sulphate) in tablet form was

chiefly used. In the Jessore district quinine hydrochloride in "treatments" was used, and was reported to be more popular than the sulphate.

The total number of operations performed in all hospitals and dispensaries during the year was 140,190.

Income.

819. The total income of Government, local fund and private aided dispensaries in classes I, III and IV, excluding the opening balance, amounted to Rs. 11,17,119 against Rs. 9,32,897 in 1910. Of this, 13·86 per cent. was contributed by Government, 25·77 per cent. by District Boards, 19·99 per cent. by Municipalities and 22·49 per cent. was raised from subscriptions and donations. Subscriptions from Indians showed a gratifying increase. Raja Jogendra Narayan Roy Bahadur of Lalgola made a donation of over Rs. 80,000 for the maintenance of the female ward in Berhampore Hospital. The Burdwan Fraser Hospital received a donation of nearly Rs. 20,000 from the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan.

Expenditure.

820. The total expenditure excluding investments increased from Rs. 8,13,659 in 1910 to Rs. 9,04,677 in 1911. More money was spent on the construction and improvement of buildings and on medicines and surgical instruments.

Leper Asylums.

821. Four Leper Asylums, including the Albert Victor Asylum for Lepers at Gobra in Calcutta, were at work during the year; 719 patients (499 male and 220 female) were treated. Dr. Deycke's "Nastin" treatment was tried at the Gobra Asylum, and the results of the experiment are being submitted to Government.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1911.]

Number of admissions.

822. The number of admissions, which attained a maximum in 1910, decreased slightly from 566 to 531. The special feature of the year was the wide variation in the number of admissions in the first and intermediate classes. Admissions in the first class, which had been gradually increasing since 1908 and attained a maximum of 146 in 1910, suddenly dropped to 56, which is the lowest figure recorded during the last decennium. On the other hand, admissions in the intermediate class were larger than ever before and rose from 78 in 1910 to 126.

Financial condition.

823. The Sanitarium was worked at a loss during the year. There was a deficit of Rs. 6,341 as compared with a surplus of Rs. 2,520 in 1910, chiefly due to the decline in the number of first-class patients. It was mostly met from the accumulated profits amounting to Rs 4,620 of the previous years, but there was still left a deficit of Rs. 1,723 to be recouped. The sum of Rs. 6,000, advanced by Government to the Sanitarium in 1907, was converted into a grant-in-aid. The special grant of Rs. 5,000 given during the year by Government was spent on structural improvements in the Institution. During the year the Sanitarium received a handsome bequest of Rs. 20,000, from the executors to the estate of the late Mr. John White of Darjeeling, to be devoted towards the benefit of necessitous patients.

Free beds.

824. The four free beds, maintained for the convalescent patients of the Presidency General Hospital and Medical College Hospital, were occupied during the greater part of the year. Seven patients were admitted from the former and five from the latter. The Superintendent's free bed was also occupied successively by seven patients. The expenditure on free beds amounted to Rs. 956. Of this amount, Rs. 455-10 was received from donations and subscriptions, and the balance of Rs. 500-6 was met from the Sanitarium funds. Besides the above, nine children occupied the free beds provided by the "Ministering Children's League" of Darjeeling, and the "Theo Beryl Fund." No one availed himself of the special concession granted by the rules of the Sanitarium to European servants of Government drawing

Rs. 400 and less and to European assistants in commercial firms, banks, etc., in respect of Sanitarium charges.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Triennial Reports from the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam for the years 1909-1911. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Population, admission and discharge.

825. The principal feature of the administration of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal during the last three years has been the continuous rise in the daily average population, following a similar rise in the preceding triennium. The daily average was 950·05 in 1909, 978·40 in 1910 and 1,025·74 in 1911. Three hundred and fifty-one persons were discharged during the three years, of whom 213 had recovered; the figures in the previous triennium were 348 and 212 respectively. There were 254 deaths during the three years against 257 in the previous triennium. The number of re-admissions was 63 as compared with 64 in the previous triennium. Of these, 31 were criminal lunatics. As in previous years, Calcutta and the district of the 24-Parganas provided more inmates than any other district in the province. *Ganja* smoking is alleged to be the cause of insanity in the case of 122 lunatics admitted during the triennium. In 1911 the mental aberration in 22 cases is attributed to intemperance in drink as compared with 4 in 1910. The accommodation in the present Lunatic Asylums provides for 950 persons. There was overcrowding in all the asylums in 1911 and especially at Berhampore. There was overcrowding in Dacca Asylum throughout the triennium. The asylums in the province (though that at Berhampore was enlarged in 1905) have for some years been condemned as below the standard of modern requirements.

Sickness and mortality.

826. In spite of the overcrowding which has occurred, the health of the inmates of the asylums during the triennium was good. The death-rate was 8·60 per cent. as compared with 9·52 in the previous triennium. The number of admissions to hospitals was 756 in 1909, 692 in 1910 and 830 in 1911. The daily average number of the sick was 131·06 in 1909, 94·45 in 1910 and 84·14 in 1911. At the Berhampore Asylum the admissions rose from 507 in 1910 to 643 in 1911, but this is ascribed to the treatment of a large number of trivial cases in the hospital in order to ensure proper supervision. Phthisis again proved one of the chief causes of mortality at Berhampore and Dacca Asylums. The statistics of Berhampore were adversely affected by the admission of 19 lunatics already suffering from this disease. The higher mortality rate at Dacca was due to a number of deaths from tuberculosis and an epidemic of cholera. The mortality from tuberculosis has fallen considerably at Dacca since the erection of a separate tubercle ward.

Finance.

827. The total average annual cost of the asylums was Rs. 1,67,512 against Rs. 1,53,312 in the preceding triennium. The average cost of each Indian lunatic, deducting the Public Works Department charges, was about Rs. 135-5-6 over the whole triennium, being slightly higher than in the previous triennium; the major portion of this is due to diet. There was a satisfactory rise in the receipts from paying patients—Rs. 2,875 in 1909, Rs. 3,006 in 1910 and Rs. 3,445 in 1911 in the case of Indians; but as criminal lunatics constituted only 47·51 per cent. of the total population in 1911, it is probable that in many cases the relatives of the non-criminal patients are not sufficiently alive to their responsibilities for maintenance.

Central Asylum.

828. Plans and estimates amounting to 20 lakhs had been carefully evolved for a first class Central Asylum where a skilled alienist could apply modern methods of treatment, and it had been decided to locate the asylum at Ranchi in conjunction with a Central Asylum for European lunatics for the whole of Northern India. The reconstitution of the provinces has rendered necessary a reconsideration of this scheme, and the matter is under correspondence with the Government of Bihar and Orissa. But Government is of opinion that a modern asylum should be constructed as soon as possible to contain 1,200 patients, and the approved plans allow for a further increase in the accommodation.

Sanitation.

[Reports of the Sanitary Commissioners of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1911.]

Sanitary works executed and in progress in towns and rural areas.

829. The total cost of sanitary works executed during 1910-1911 by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals was somewhat less than in the previous year, the following being the most important, each costing Rs. 5,000 or more :—

(1) Construction of drains in the towns of Howrah (Rs. 50,614), Bhatpara (Rs. 71,885), Baranagar (Rs. 13,691) and Khulna (Rs. 7,953).

(2) Payment by the Titagarh Municipality of outstanding bills for the cost of three culverts constructed by the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities, and completion of some subsidiary drains which formed part of the drainage scheme of the town, Rs. 12,391.

(3) Acquisition of land for the Hooghly-Chinsura water-works, Rs. 14,047.

(4) Construction by the South Suburban Municipality of an elevated reservoir for the supply of filtered water, Rs. 13,000.

(5) Works in connection with the Darjeeling sewage scheme and ropeway, Rs. 97,093.

(6) Construction of bazar buildings and quarters for the Superintendent of Conservancy and Assistant Electrician at Darjeeling, Rs. 63,322.

In the city of Dacca the detailed plans and estimates of the Sewerage Scheme are being drawn up. The cost of the work is estimated to be about Rs. 23,00,000. The scheme to establish a municipal market has also been under consideration. At Narayanganj the reduplication of the pumping plant of the water-works has been completed. Filtered water is now being supplied to the town of Munshiganj. The remodelling of the Mymensingh water-works at an estimated cost of Rs. 58,823 is practically complete. The water-works at Barisal are practically complete and will be a great improvement to the town.

Sanitary improvements.

830. The expenditure by municipalities on conservancy, drainage and water-supply was less than in the previous year, the decrease being due to the fact that the expenditure in the preceding year was abnormally large, owing to the construction of drains in various towns. Dacca spent considerably less on water-supply, but increased its expenditure on conservancy. The Patna system of improving village sanitation was continued in Birbhum district. In Eastern Bengal village sanitation is at present confined to the improvement of the water-supply. The introduction of filtered water checks the incidence of cholera and other water-borne diseases, but unless accompanied by the introduction of an efficient drainage scheme, leads to the stagnation of a large volume of waste water and a corresponding rise in the incidence of fever. The collection of statistics to show the effect of certain important drainage works in the 24-Parganas, Jessore, etc., in diminishing the prevalence of fever was continued during 1911.

Sanitary Board.

831. During the year, three new schemes of water-supply at Asansol, Kalimpong and Burdwan were taken up. Four schemes at Uttarpara, Bankura, Kalna and Satkhira were under the consideration of the Board in their initial stages and nine were proceeded with. Five drainage schemes were in the course of preparation in the Sanitary Engineer's office, and four others were either examined or revised, while work was in progress in eleven schemes. In order to stimulate the inception of adequate drainage schemes in suburban municipalities, the Bagjola canal has been excavated and improved at Government cost, in the hope that the various municipalities in the vicinity will make use of it as an outlet for their drainage. So far, however, the local bodies concerned have not shown the desire, and in some cases have not the ability, to profit by the help thus afforded by Government.

Septic tanks

832. The septic tank installations in Bengal are carefully inspected monthly by the Inspector, Mr. Dallas, and effluents are examined chemically and bacteriologically once a quarter or oftener. There has been a steady improvement in the working of the septic tanks. During the last year five or six old installations have been remodelled and all these are now doing well. From the result of researches carried out in the laboratory, it may now be stated that these septic tank latrine installations are now practically perfect in design. The chlorinating of all the effluent is now done extremely well, and it is seldom that we find a mill effluent that is not practically sterile.

Sanitary precautions at fairs and festivals.

833. As in previous years, necessary sanitary and medical precautions were taken in all big fairs and festivals held during the year 1911. During the *Rash Jatra mela* at Santipur there were six deaths from cholera but owing to the adoption of satisfactory preventive measures the outbreak subsided very soon. All other big fairs in the Province passed off without any incident.

Special Public Works Division.

834. A step in a new direction has been taken by the proposal to create a special Public Works Division for the purpose of investigating drainage conditions. The prevailing ignorance of the data governing the water-logged condition of various districts forbids the formation of well-considered drainage schemes and, owing to the absence of systematic observations from the records of the past, the exact wants of different localities are unknown. It is a common and oft-repeated cry in Bengal that the cause of malaria is largely due to defective drainage. What is needed is a systematic investigation by an expert establishment, which should be able to submit a definite and authoritative report regarding the localities in which the drainage is defective, stating the extent and nature of the defects, and the possible remedies and their approximate cost. This information will now be collected by the special officer appointed for this purpose, who will first investigate the conditions near the Bhairab river in Jessore.

Sanitary Service.

835. Since the close of the year it has been decided to organize a sanitary service for the province, with Health Officers in charge of the larger municipal towns and properly trained and qualified Sanitary Inspectors for other towns and rural areas. The details of the scheme are now being worked out and the course of training for the inspectors drawn up, as the first essential is the supply of properly trained men. The organization of the service in municipal towns will first be taken up, as they are compact and more easily managed areas, but it is hoped, within a reasonable time, to extend the scheme to the rural areas also.

Vaccination.

[Vaccination Returns for Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Small-pox and Vaccination.

836. The provincial death-rate was ·4. This is lower than the average of the past 10 years by ·19. The incidence of the disease was generally mild in all districts, except in Mymensingh, where the outbreak was of a serious nature, chiefly in areas inhabited by Muhammadan cultivators in whose families the *purdanashin* system is strictly enforced, and vaccination of the women is extremely difficult. Vaccinators were specially deputed to work in the affected areas. Darjeeling escaped its ravages altogether, and 18 districts showed a mortality below ·1 per mille. The total number of operations performed during the year was 1,950,806, the number of persons vaccinated being 1,940,402. There was a decrease of 111,941 in primary vaccinations, and of 5,234 in re-vaccinations. The rise in the death-rate from small-pox in Calcutta has led to keeping vaccination stations open on every day of the week and combining them with the birth registration stations. Orders were issued during the year to ensure improvement in the work of inspection. Hitherto stress has been laid only on the number of cases inspected. In future increased importance will be attached to the amount of touring done by the inspecting officers, the state of discipline, and efficiency amongst the subordinate vaccinators.

The Poisons Act.

[The Reports on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1911.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

837. The steps taken in previous years to make generally known the provisions of the Act were continued during 1911. The total number of licenses granted during the year in the Presidency of Bengal was 208 under section 2 and 297 under section 4 of the Act. Outside Calcutta, where the total number of licenses issued under both the sections, amounted to 116 against 131 licenses in 1910; the largest number of licenses was current in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. Of the 15 districts in the three Divisions of Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong, no licenses were issued in 5 districts, and in the remainder the number of licenses current was generally small. In Calcutta, as well as in certain districts, some shop-keepers who took out licenses in previous years surrendered their licenses in 1911, most noticeably in the case of the district of Mymensingh where 40 licensees surrendered their licenses, as they did not find the business profitable. There is reason to suspect that unlicensed sales of poisons are still going on in some places. The total number of prosecutions instituted under the Act was 15, of which 12 ended in conviction. These prosecutions were made in eight districts only. The failure of a case instituted at Calcutta necessitated the inclusion of "strychnine" amongst the poisons specified in the rules framed under the Poisons Act. During the year the Act appears to have worked well on the whole, and the reduction in the number of cattle-poisoning cases may fairly be attributed to its provisions. In some districts, however, the practice of cattle-poisoning is still frequent.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

Directing and Inspecting Agencies.

838. The Education Department is controlled by the Director of Public Instruction. The Director is assisted by an Assistant Director and by Inspectors, Additional Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors, who are in charge of the Divisions into which the Province has been divided for educational purposes. Each civil district usually has a Deputy Inspector (aided in some cases by an Additional Deputy Inspector), who works under the dual control of the District Magistrate and the Department. Under these are the Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors, who used to be appointed and controlled by the District Boards ; their services have now been retransferred to Government. Still lower than these are the Inspecting Pandits who are employed by the District Boards to assist in the supervision of primary schools. There are also special inspecting officers for European schools, Muhammadan education, Technical and Industrial Institutions and a staff of Inspectresses for girls' schools. Most of the superior directing and controlling staff belong to the Indian Educational Service or the Provincial Educational Service. The former service consists almost entirely of Europeans recruited in Great Britain, while almost all the members of the Provincial Service are Indians. The subordinate inspecting agency is divided into the Subordinate Educational Service and the Lower Subordinate Educational Service, which are entirely manned by Indians. The Inspector of Schools is specially charged with the general educational administration, the inspection of all Government High schools and a certain number of aided High English schools within his division ; Deputy Inspectors are heads of the primary and middle school systems of the different districts, and manifold duties devolve on them : that of inspecting schools and the work of their subordinates : that of administration and correspondence : most important of all, that of representing the Department on the District Boards. The work of the Sub-Inspectors is confined to matters connected with primary schools and similar elementary institutions. The main duty of Inspecting Pandits or *guru*-instructors is the instruction of *gurus*, but they inspect primary schools as well to a certain extent. Schools of all classes are also periodically inspected by Divisional Commissioners, District Officers and Subdivisional Officers within their respective jurisdictions.

Educational responsibilities of District Boards and Municipalities.

839. Under the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 all District Boards have been vested with certain powers over education, and in most districts the District Boards have entrusted the Local Boards and Union Committees under them with certain duties in regard to primary schools. Each District Board has an Education Committee, which consists partly of members of the District Board and partly of other selected residents of the district. The Deputy Inspector of Schools is always a member of this Committee. Most of the educational expenditure of District Boards is incurred on primary schools, which are fostered by a system of grants-in-aid.

Under a Government order of 1902 municipalities were required to spend 3·2 per cent. of their income on primary education, and until this was done they could not aid secondary schools. This order was withdrawn in 1910. The effect of this withdrawal remains to be seen, but it may be said that, as a rule, the members of municipalities take little interest in the education of the masses and are apt to divert their funds to the support of schools with which they are more directly concerned.

Classification of Institutions.

840. The main divisions of educational institutions are collegiate, secondary and primary. Elementary and secondary education is provided in five grades of schools : (1) Lower Primary, (2) Upper Primary, (3) Middle Vernacular, (4) Middle English and (5) High English schools. The upper primary standard represents the limit of primary education. Secondary education

includes the teaching of the two upper classes of the Middle schools and the six upper classes of High schools, and terminates with the Matriculation Examination. The courses of studies extend over four years in a Lower Primary, five years in an Upper Primary and seven years in a Middle Vernacular school. In Middle English and High Engligh schools the courses last six and ten years respectively. After passing the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University at about the age of 16 to 18 a boy enters on his collegiate career. Besides these there are special schools such as schools for the training of teachers, Technical and Industrial schools and schools of oriental learning—*tols* for Sanskrit and *madrassahs* for Arabic and Persian. The great majority of educational institutions in Bengal which conform to recognized standards are under private management. The part played by mission agencies in educational work is increasing in efficiency and importance, especially in female education. Schools run for private profit as a commercial speculation do not exist. All privately managed institutions desiring affiliation to the Calcutta University must have properly constituted and representative governing bodies. There are, besides, private intitutions, *i.e.*, schools which have not accepted Departmental or University standards and control. They consist chiefly of advanced institutions teaching Arabic, Sanskrit, or any other oriental classical language and elementary schools teaching the Koran or a vernacular only. The number of such schools is decreasing owing to the strong tendency which animates the community and especially the Muhammadans to abandon the attempt to stand apart in education and to use the schools intended for the general public to a greater extent than formerly.

Primary Education.

841. The main object of Primary schools is to impart education to the masses in their own vernacular in those subjects that are appropriate to their position in life. The Primary schools are of two classes, Lower and Upper; in the Lower Primary institutions the most elementary instruction in the vernacular is provided. In addition, the teaching comprises drawing with chalk on the black board, modelling in clay, hygiene, observation lessons on natural phenomena and plant life; the map of the village and its neighbourhood and geography, mainly directed to the chief physical features of the actual surroundings. Elementary drill, hand and eye training, more advanced work in arithmetic and natural observation lessons on animal life are optional in rural, but compulsory in urban, schools. This syllabus, which is in use in the Western Bengal districts, was drawn up recently by an expert committee. The Upper Primary schools give instruction somewhat more advanced than that of the Lower Primary course. In Eastern Bengal a new curriculum for Primary schools came into force on the 1st January 1912. It was drawn up after much discussion by a committee of official and non-official gentlemen. The course of study is designed to teach the pupils to think for themselves, to train their powers of observation, and to impart practical knowledge that will be of use to them in their every-day life. It will not lead the village boy to think that the pursuits of his father are derogatory and to be avoided, but will train him to follow his hereditary calling with greater intelligence and thus to improve his material and moral condition. The subjects will be more interesting, more familiar to the children and better adapted to rouse their intelligence. A distinction is made in the curriculum between rural and urban schools. Stress is laid on practical work in the school garden with a view to early training in the operations of agriculture. In fact the introduction of Nature Study has been one of the greatest reforms of the primary school curriculum. The number of classes has been diminished, while at the same time the lower primary course has been made, as far as possible, self-contained for those pupils whose circumstances will not admit of their studying to the end of the full course. Money for primary schools is derived from Provincial revenues, District Board and Municipal funds and from fees paid by pupils. The remuneration of a *guru* or teacher from the public funds takes the form of a grant-in-aid, which varies according to the efficiency of his school. This is supplemented by fees and payments in kind made by the boys and gifts made to him on the occasion of marriages or festivals in the village. It is impossible to make any estimate of the money value of this source of income, but it tends to fall off the more the *guru* receives from public funds, and it is certain that the

conditions of employment for teachers in primary schools are such as do not ensure them the means of a tolerable livelihood. Many schools have no houses of their own, but assemble in an out-house or verandah belonging to some prominent local man. Often the furniture is of the rudest, and the commonest educational appliances are lacking. In Eastern Bengal elementary schools, properly housed and equipped and adequately staffed, are being established under the direct management of the District Boards to serve as models to other primary schools. In contrast to the general mass of primary schools, these new schools may claim a fair degree of efficiency. A working plan for the next five years has been prepared on the subject of improving and extending primary and middle vernacular education and of increasing the present provision for the training of teachers. Proposals have been submitted for the improvement of the pay of primary and middle vernacular teachers, the construction of new *guru*-training schools and the improvement of the existing schools, the conversion of selected Upper Primary schools into Board schools and the provision of more scholarships.

Secondary Education.

842. The upper primary standard (standard IV) represents the limit of primary education, and the term secondary education means the teaching given in all classes above the fourth standard. In future Middle Vernacular schools are to be considered as forming the apex of primary education as they belong rightly to the system of vernacular education of the masses. Middle Vernacular schools are waning in popularity owing to the universal desire to learn English, and secondary education in its real sense is given in High and Middle English schools. High schools include those institutions which are recognised by the Calcutta University as capable of affording suitable preparation for the Matriculation Examination. By including High schools in its list of recognized institutions or excluding them from it, the University enforces its rules for their proper management. Most of the schools are under private management, but it is the policy of Government to maintain one well-staffed and well-equipped High school under Government management as a model in each district. The cost of a High school is gradually increasing owing to the improvements necessitated by the University Regulations. Secondary schools are helped from Provincial revenues and District Board and Municipal funds, but most of their income is obtained from private funds in the form of fees and subscriptions. Aided secondary schools, both High and Middle, are managed by committees, the members of which are selected so as to represent all classes. Discipline is maintained by the transfer rules governing the transfer of pupils from one institution to another, by the rules for the management of hostels and students' messes and by the encouragement of games. The average number of English schools varies in different parts of the province. The Burdwan Division has an average of 75 English schools per district and the Presidency Division 69.

Scholarships.

843. The public scholarships, which are connected with general education, are intended to form a ladder leading from the lowest stage of primary education up to either University education or technical and professional training. The stages in the educational system at which scholarships are awarded are at the end of (1) the lower primary stage, (2) the upper primary stage, (3) the middle stage and (4) the secondary stage (University Matriculation Examination). Candidates are selected to compete for them. In the selection of candidates, considerations of poverty and conduct are taken into consideration, and a certain proportion of the scholarships available are reserved for Muhammadans and females. Special consideration can, when necessary, be shown to candidates from backward districts.

Examinations.

844. Public examinations at the end of the Primary and Middle school courses were abolished in 1903, and he primary examination at the end of the middle stage of instruction (standard VI) was substituted for them. It is a departmental examination conducted by the school-teachers and other private gentlemen. The result of entrusting the schools with the conduct of private examinations *in situ* has not been satisfactory, and it is proposed to restore the old Middle school examination. There is no public examination between the primary stage and the University Matriculation Examination. The Matriculation is in fact the school-leaving examination of Bengal ; but as its regulations were framed with a different object in view,

viz., to test the capacity of candidates for admission to University studies, it is proposed to institute a separate school-leaving certificate.

Education of Indian girls and women.

845. The vast majority of Indian girls under instruction are being educated in primary schools, and it is difficult to induce parents to keep their girls long enough at school to complete even the lower primary course. Government maintains some model primary schools : others are supported by District Boards and Municipalities. Peasant girls' schools have been opened by Government in certain places with a view to approach a class of people who are usually averse to female education, but the number of Muhammadan girls who attend public schools remains extremely small. The syllabus for girls' schools differs from that for boys' schools mainly in the addition of needle-work and domestic economy. There are a number of mission schools in Calcutta which provide secondary education, but collegiate education for women is making but slow progress. There are three colleges for the education of Indian girls in Calcutta, two of which are affiliated up to the B.A. standard. Zenana teaching is carried on not only by missionary agency, but also departmentally by means of central gatherings at certain selected places, usually the homes of respectable gentlemen, and by means of female teachers visiting from house to house.

Education of Europeans.

846. Collegiate education for Europeans, as a thing apart from the collegiate education of Indians, is practically non-existent. The only Europeans who appear at the University examinations from European schools are girls. There is very little inducement for Europeans or Anglo-Indians to take up University courses and proceed to a degree. A revised Code for European schools came into force in 1911 and schools were classified as elementary, higher elementary, secondary and higher secondary. The subjects prescribed for secondary schools form a workable and practical course of studies suitable for European and Anglo-Indian boys. The courses moreover are so arranged as to lead up to the Cambridge examinations. The course for elementary schools covers a period of nine years. Government has the direct management of two schools only. Of the schools under private management, a large number are controlled by religious bodies, over 50 per cent. of pupils being educated in Roman Catholic schools. The largest number of schools is in Calcutta and its immediate neighbourhood—Howrah and Kidderpore (5,548 pupils)—and in Darjeeling (1,495 pupils). There are no considerable areas of European population which do not contain at least one school. There is a State scholarship of £200 per annum, tenable for three or four years by domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians in England or other European countries and awarded annually by the Government of India after considering the recommendations of the Local Governments.

Education of special classes.

847. There is a special Santali-knowing Sub-Inspector of Schools to look after Sonthal education in the Burdwan Division, and there are special schools for the Bhotias and Lepchas of the Darjeeling district. For the education of defectives, the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School is the only one of the kind in the province. The Kareya Blind School in Calcutta is conducted by a Bengali Christian. The children of coolies are educated in special schools in the tea estates ; and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Government supports a large number of free schools for various tribes.

Education of Muhammadans.

848. The bulk of the Muhammadan pupils under public instruction are taught in schools for the general community supported or aided by the State. The scarcity of Muhammadans in institutions other than primary schools still continues, but some progress is being made. There are also several institutions specially designed for Muhammadan pupils, some of which are maintained by the State and others by private persons and societies, the most important of which are the Calcutta Madrassah and the Hooghly Madrassah. A scheme for the improvement of Muhammadan education was recently adopted. It remodels the whole work of the Calcutta and Hooghly Madrassahs from the lowest class to the highest. The chief object aimed at was to improve the general education of the Muhammadans, while preserving the standard of their Arabic learning at its former high level. A uniform syllabus of studies has been introduced for *maktabs*, *i.e.*, Muhammadan primary schools in which the Koran is read and instruction given in the elements of the Muhammadan religion. A special grant is made from

Provincial revenues to enable District Boards to help *maktabs*. Poor Muhammadans are helped from the Mohsin Fund, which owed its origin to the bequests made by Muhammad Mohsin for educational and charitable purposes.

The study of Oriental classical languages.

849. Arabic and Persian are taught in the Madrassahs and *maktabs*, of which mention has already been made, and also in the Presidency College. In the *tols*, instruction is given in the Sanskrit language and literature and in the various systems of Hindu Philosophy. Some of them are aided by Government and perhaps the most famous are those of Nabadwip in Nadia and the Sanskrit Colleges of Bhatpara and Mulajor in the 24-Parganas. The Sanskrit College in Calcutta has an Oriental Department, which prepares candidates for the first and second Sanskrit Examinations and for the Sanskrit Title Examination. The object of the College is to combine all that is best in indigenous Sanskrit learning with the more scientific methods of European Sanskrit scholars. There is a Board of Examiners for Sanskrit Examinations which examines about 8,000 candidates annually, and, as such, it has attained to something like the status of a University. There are 1,300 *tols* under its jurisdiction in Bengal and Assam, and its sphere of activity extends as far afield as Gujerat.

Training of Teachers.

850. The teachers in Indian schools fall into three classes—those who teach (1) through the medium of English, (2) through the medium of the vernacular in secondary schools, (3) through the medium of the vernacular in primary schools. There are no facilities in Bengal for the training of European male teachers. Young men do not care to enter the teaching profession because the prospects of teachers in European schools, not only in Bengal but also in other Provinces of India, are very poor. The appointments are few and badly paid. There is a Training Class for European female elementary teachers attached to the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong. It is intended to turn out 10 trained elementary teachers every year. The total number of trained teachers sent out since March 1907 is 37. A scheme now under consideration provides for the training of a small number of secondary teachers each year at the same institution.

There are two Government colleges for the training of teachers who teach through the medium of English, the David Hare Training College in Calcutta and the Dacca Training College. The David Hare Training College began working in July 1908 with a Principal and two Professors. The Hare, Hindu and Sanskrit Collegiate schools are used as practising schools. Graduates are trained up to the B. T. Examination of the Calcutta University and the B. T. class is limited to 24. The Dacca Training College was opened in July 1910 and is affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the B. T. standard. In 1911 it received 24 students. Teachers in Government schools are now deputed to one or other of the training colleges on full pay, and arrangements are being made to ensure that all existing teachers (at least those under 45 years of age) shall eventually be trained. No teacher is now appointed to the Subordinate Educational Service unless he gives an undertaking to undergo a course of training, whenever required. For the training of vernacular teachers there are first grade training schools at Calcutta and Hooghly and an aided school at Krishnagar, three Normal schools at Dacca, Chittagong and Rangpur, besides a large number of *guru*-training schools distributed through every district. The first-grade training schools and Normal schools supply teachers for the higher classes of vernacular schools, and for the vernacular classes of High and Middle English schools and head pandits for the *guru*-training schools. They occupy, therefore, an important place in the educational system. The Calcutta Training and Model schools are under the superintendence of the Principal of the David Hare College. The training school course lasts three years and 25 students are granted stipends. The curriculum has been thoroughly revised in accordance with approved modern principles, and the institution has an efficient practising school. The standard of teaching in the primary schools has improved by the introduction of trained *gurus*, but a weak point of the scheme lies in the fact that a large percentage of the trained *gurus* do not return to their primary schools to teach, but take up other employment. Steps are being taken to prevent this leakage by improving the prospects of *gurus* trained in the schools. The Calcutta Hindu female training class was

started in 1908, as a provisional arrangement. It is entirely a *parda* institution, and there is an increasing demand for admissions to it. In Dacca there are the Eden School training classes for women teachers. Besides these institutions there are other training classes for primary female teachers under missionary management. There is no provision anywhere in Bengal for the training of women for secondary teaching, but this defect will be remedied by a scheme now ready for adoption.

Professional Colleges and Schools.

851. Certain colleges in Calcutta used to be affiliated to the University in law, and students were prepared for the B. L. examination at the law classes attached to these colleges. In 1908 all the B. L. classes in Government colleges were closed and the University Law College started with a whole-time Principal, three Professors and eight Assistant Professors. For the Pleadership examination, instruction is provided as before, in the affiliated colleges at Calcutta, Dacca, Midnapore and Krishnagar. In Eastern Bengal there are three law colleges, two attached to the two State colleges at Dacca and Rajshahi and the third to the Brajamohan Institution at Barisal.

Law.

Medicine.

852. The Medical College, Calcutta, prepares students for the Bachelor of Medicine degree and L. M. S. diploma of the Calcutta University. The Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, and the Dacca Medical School train students for the Licensed Medical Practitioner diploma, or for the appointment of Sub-Assistant Surgeon in case they enter Government service, the course extending over four years. There is a medical institution at Belgachia, maintained by the Calcutta Medical School, but it has not yet been recognised by Government.

Engineering and Technical Colleges and Schools.

853. The Engineering Department of the Sibpur College prepares students for the Engineer branch of the Public Works Department. The standard of the whole and of a certain portion of the Apprentice Departmant is that of the Upper and Lower subordinate branches of the Public Works Department. Persons who have no desire to compete for Government posts, but wish to be trained in the higher branches of Engineering are admitted as special students. Selected telegraphists are deputed yearly to Sibpur for a six-months' course of training; courses of instruction are also provided in mining, electrical engineering and industrial chemistry. There are classes teaching up to the Sub-Overseer standard at the Burdwan Technical School, and the Mahisadal Technical School, Midnapore. The former is managed by the District Board. The latter was started by the contributions of the zamindars of the Midnapore district. The only school of Engineering for the Eastern Bengal districts is attached to the Dacca College. It teaches up to the Foreman Mechanics standard. The five technical schools at Barisal, Comilla, Rampur-Boalia, Rangpur and Pabna teach only up to the Sub-Overseer standard. The Joint-Technical Examination Board controls the Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations, and advises Government with reference to the syllabuses of study.

Among the facilities for acquiring technical education, the State Technical scholarships started in 1901, occupy an important place. From 1908 onward one scholarship of the value of £150 was given annually to each province, and the Government of India has occasionally allotted a second scholarship to Bengal. They are confined to statutory natives of India, and are intended to enable persons to go to Europe to obtain the higher technical education, which will qualify them to improve existing industries and to start new ones, on their return to India. The system has been adversely criticised and the question of the proper training of State technical scholars is now under the consideration of a committee appointed by the Secretary of State.

Commercial Schools.

854. Day and evening classes are held at the Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, which was established on a permanent basis in 1911. There are five unaided commercial schools in Calcutta, teaching shorthand and typewriting. In Eastern Bengal, commercial education is provided in eight private institutions, four at Dacca and two each at Barisal and Chittagong.

Industrial Schools.

855. The Serampore Weaving Institute was opened in January 1909 and is composed of two different classes. One consists of young men who undergo a two-years' course in both power and hand-loom weaving with special instruction in drawing and designing. The instruction is given in English, and it is hoped that passed students will be fit to act as instructors or to take up

positions of responsibility in manufacturing concerns. The second class consists of local weavers, who follow a six-months' course of practical weaving. Weaving classes are also held at outlying centres. Exclusive of the Serampore Weaving Institute, the Burdwan Division has five industrial schools, two of which are managed by District Boards. Calcutta has six industrial schools and the Presidency Division outside Calcutta has four. The Khulna Coronation Technical School is managed by the District Board and teaches surveying, carpentry and blacksmith's work to 40 learners. At Kalimpong, weaving, dyeing, lace-making, embroidery and carpentry are taught. Industrial schools have also been established at Chittagong and Bogra: a weaving school exists at Malda and a Sericultural school at Rampur-Boalia. The chief fault of industrial schools in Bengal in the past has been the want of a governing principle in their management. Money and labour have been wasted in teaching boys trades which they will never practise. Pupils often leave the schools when they have learned merely enough of the trade to earn a living. Industrial schools have apparently worked no change for the better in the Indian carpenter; the Chinaman has still to be called in when any work out of the common is required. A Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Industrial and Technical Institutions has recently been appointed and it is hoped that industrial education will soon be put on a more satisfactory footing.

Night and continuation schools.

856. Night schools impart elementary (generally lower primary) instruction to children and others who cannot attend school during the day because they have to work. Almost all of these schools are conducted by the *gurus* of lower primary schools in the same buildings in which the day schools are held. Night schools are intended chiefly for day-labourers, but there is little real demand for them. Continuation schools are divided into group I, the object of which is to complete a boy's general elementary education; group II, which gives specialized elementary education in commercial subjects, and technical subjects; and group III, which gives advanced instruction in the subjects included in group II. There are as yet no continuation schools of this group in existence. The number of continuation schools in the Presidency Division and Calcutta in 1911-1912 was 151 (92 belonging to group I and 59 to group II) with 4,168 pupils. These schools exist only in the Presidency Division and have been working there as an experimental measure since 1902. They are not established at centres of trade and industry, and the scheme is not co-ordinated with local trades and industries on the one hand, and with employers of labour on the other. The schools are therefore declining.

Calcutta School of Art.

857. The main function of the school has been declared to be to improve the arts and industries of the country. In 1909 the school was reorganized and divided into five departments—(1) elementary, (2) industrial, (3) drafting, (4) teaching, (5) fine arts. A student joins the school in the elementary department, and works there for two years. Having successfully passed through this stage, he may join either of the other four departments and continue in one of them for about three years. The Industrial Department has classes for lithography, wood-engraving, modelling and wood-carving. There are three private Art schools in Calcutta, which teach drawing, engraving, moulding and lithography.

Collegiate Education.

858. Of the Arts Colleges in Bengal, some are Government institutions and others (the majority) are under private management. Some of the private colleges are aided and others exist on their own resources. All colleges are under the control of a governing body, and in the case of Government colleges, the governing bodies were recently reconstituted with a view to give the colleges greater financial responsibility and promote their freer development. Affiliation to the University is granted to colleges not in general terms, but with an exact reference to the courses of study for which the college can make adequate provision. Each college is called upon to confine its attention and to devote its energies to an adequate treatment of a few branches of knowledge and to aim at specialization. As students are allowed to attend inter-collegiate lectures, the restricted affiliation of individual colleges does not create any special hardship as far as the students are concerned; this permission is, however, seldom utilised. The general tendency

is to confine the mufassal colleges to B. A. and B. Sc. affiliation. M. A. and M. Sc. affiliation is as a rule only granted to Calcutta colleges. Seventy-seven colleges are affiliated in Arts, of which four are affiliated up to the M. A., 29 up to the B. A. and 44 up to the Intermediate standard. In Science, there are 24 affiliated colleges, five in Teaching, four in Law and one each in Medicine and Engineering. The new regulations of the Calcutta University published in 1906 give expression to an altered idea of collegiate education. The old conception of the college as a place where students are prepared for examinations is being replaced by a wider and fuller conception, that of the residential college, with a full social life of its own, and an obligation to care for the moral and physical as well as the intellectual welfare of the student. This ideal is still far from being realized. Accommodation in the affiliated colleges is insufficient to meet the natural growth in the number of University students consequent on the advance of culture and the success of the educational reforms lately undertaken. To assist the colleges to attain the requisite standard of efficiency, Government has spent large sums especially for the provision of hostels and laboratories, not only in its own colleges but in private colleges as well. The result has been an improvement in the general condition of affiliated colleges, which are working in harmony with the University and with one another. Some of them have already attained to a state of efficiency and usefulness that argues well for their further development in the near future.

Hostels.

859. The duty of providing suitable residences for students is imposed by the new University Regulations upon college authorities, but so far only partial success has been achieved in this respect. The Calcutta colleges, in spite of their best endeavours, have hitherto failed to provide suitable residences for a large majority of their students. Government has come to their aid. A contribution of Rs. 6,00,000 has already been made from Imperial revenues to some of the deserving colleges for hostel purposes, but owing to the notorious difficulty of securing sites in Calcutta, only a fraction of this contribution has as yet been utilised. A further sum of Rs. 3,00,000 has been made over to the University to enable it to meet the cost of construction of a hostel for its Law College. The collegiate hostels, the number of which is limited, are under the direct control and supervision of the Principals of the colleges to which they are attached. Each collegiate hostel is required to obtain a certificate of recognition from the Syndicate and is annually inspected by the University Inspector of Colleges. The Regulations relating to non-collegiate hostels, messes and private lodgings are administered by the Students' Residence Committee, not less than three members of which must be Indians. There are also local Residence Committees at Dacca and other mufassal centres of collegiate education and their proceedings are subject to confirmation by the Syndicate.

Calcutta University.

860. The Calcutta University was at first in its nature an Imperial University rather than one confined to Provincial limits, but since the passing of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, its sphere of activity has been confined to Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Burma. The majority of the Fellows, as before the Act, are nominated by the Viceroy as Chancellor. The Senate consists of one hundred Fellows; of these ten are elected by the Faculties, ten by the Registered Fellows, and the remainder are nominated by the Chancellor. The Faculties consist of Arts, Science, Law, Medicine and Engineering.

Affiliation to Foreign Universities.

861. The University of Calcutta is affiliated to the Universities of Oxford, Dublin and Edinburgh. In virtue of this affiliation a student, who satisfies certain specified tests of the Calcutta University, will, on proceeding to any of the above mentioned Universities, be admitted to certain privileges such as a diminution of the prescribed period of residence or the exemption from the necessity of passing certain examinations or parts of examinations.

Functions of the University.

862. The University continues to be mainly an examining body, and its principal functions are to affiliate colleges and recognize schools, to prescribe courses of studies, to hold examinations and to grant certificates and diplomas to successful examinees. Since the passing of the Universities Act of 1904, however, an important change from the old order of things has been effected in that the University has assumed direct teaching as well as

examining functions, and for this purpose has been given power to appoint University Professors, Readers and Lecturers in various subjects. Special lectures on subjects such as Indian Astronomy, the Literature of Bengal and the History of India have been given. A Professorship of Indian Economics has been established and three more University Professors will shortly be appointed. University Lecturers in English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Philosophy and other subjects have been appointed for the benefit of post-graduate students.

The control of the University over affiliated colleges is clearly defined in the new Regulations. Under the Act of Incorporation the University, although it indirectly regulated the methods of study pursued in affiliated colleges by prescribing syllabuses and courses of study, never attempted to exercise any direct supervision or control over such colleges. Under the new Regulations, however, these affiliated colleges are regarded as an integral part of the University, and it is now recognized to be one of the duties of the University to secure the efficiency of these colleges and to help them in their legitimate aspirations for future development.

Another important task of the University is the inspection of the High English schools. The number of these schools recognized by the University is 619, of which 63 are under the management of Government. During the last five years the Syndicate has made a systematic examination of these schools and has succeeded in remedying many of the defects that were discovered. It has laid down that each recognised school must have on its staff at least two graduates and two F. A. or Intermediate passed teachers; a minimum scale of pay for teachers has been fixed; sufficient accommodation and equipment have to be provided; libraries maintained and arrangements made for physical exercise. The granting or refusal of these privileges of affiliation or recognition is the foundation of the disciplinary power of the University.

Moderators and Examiners.

863. New rules have been passed relating to the setting of question papers, methods of examinations, appointment of Examiners and other analogous matters. The main object of the rules is to discourage the old style of teaching, the sole aim of which was the passing of examinations. To secure uniformity of standards of examinations the Syndicate appoints five Syndics as Moderators, three from the Faculty of Arts and two from the Faculty of Science, before the commencement of the Matriculation and Intermediate Examinations. A Board of Examiners consisting of two or more persons is appointed by the Syndicate, whenever practicable, to set papers in each subject in each examination. Examinations under the new regulations were held for the first time in 1909-1910, and the effect of the new rules can hardly be gauged yet. But notwithstanding the higher standard of efficiency demanded, the number of candidates and the percentage of passes have continued to increase year by year.

Degrees in Arts and Science.

864. Candidates who wish to proceed to a degree have to pass a Matriculation Examination in English, Mathematics, a classical language, composition in a vernacular and two other optional subjects. After two years' study there is an intermediate examination in Arts and Science and then the B.A. or B. Sc. examination. Vernacular composition is a compulsory subject in all examinations up to the B.A. standard. Candidates are allowed to take up the Honours Course in one subject only. Practical texts in Science subjects are given, and for holding the practical examination of students in Science the University is about to have its own laboratories. For the M.A. examination one out of 20 subjects can be offered. The degree which was formerly called D.Sc. is now called M.Sc. and the D.Sc. is a higher distinction obtainable three years after the M.Sc. on approval of a thesis. Neither the M.A. nor the M.Sc. can be obtained except after two years' further study in a recognised college after passing the B.A. or B.Sc. examinations.

Law, Medical, Engineering and Teaching Degrees.

865. In law, instead of the degrees of B.L. and Doctor in Law, there are now the degrees of B.L., M.L. and D.L. For the B.L., preliminary and intermediate examinations have been instituted in addition to the final, and the course has been lengthened to three years. In Medicine, the L.M.S. is abolished; and there are new degrees of Master of Surgery and Master of Obstetrics and a new diploma of Public Health. Medical students will begin

their medical studies after Matriculation instead of after the I.A., but those who enter after passing the I.Sc. examination will study for five years only. In Engineering, instead of the F.E., Licentiate and B E., there are the Intermediate, Bachelor of Engineering, and D.Sc. (Engineering). The Engineering student still has a four years' course leading up to the degree of B.E., but his first examination is at the end of the second instead of the third year of study. There are three branches of the B.E., viz., Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, and Mining. There is a new degree of Bachelor of Teaching, and an inferior title called Licentiate.

Post-graduate studies.

866. The University has begun to undertake to provide post-graduate teaching, and within the last five years, it has been able, with the limited means at its disposal and the generous help of the Imperial Government to make a definite advance in this direction. It has secured the co-operation of eminent scholars as University Readers. A chair of Economics was recently founded and three more Professors will shortly be appointed. A large number of lecturers have been appointed to deliver lectures specially for post-graduate students. The provision of tutorial assistance to students is contemplated when funds permit. Meanwhile small seminars with concentrated libraries have been provided where students may work under the guidance of the lecturers. Lastly, for the encouragement of such studies, a number of scholarships, medals and prizes are awarded in the Faculties of Arts, Science, Law, Medicine and Engineering.

Buildings and Endowments.

867. A commodious edifice has just been completed which accommodates the University Library, the University Law College and Registrar's office, and also provides residential quarters for the Principal of the Law College. This building has cost the University nearly 6½ lakhs of rupees, of which 2½ lakhs were contributed by the Maharaja of Darbhanga and 2 lakhs by Government. The construction of another commodious building has been taken in hand for the hostel accommodation of the students of the University Law College. A princely gift worth over Rs. 14,00,000 consisting of cash and landed property from Mr. T. Palit has enabled the University to form a definite scheme for the establishment of a college of science and for the foundation of two chairs. The Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi of Kasimbazar has created endowments for the award of scholarships to meritorious students of the University Law College, and the promotion of research into the History of Indian Mathematics. There are numerous other endowments which indicate the interest taken in University education by men of culture in various walks of life.

Education.

[Progress of education in Bengal and in Eastern Bengal and Assam, 1907-1908 to 1911-1912. Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Educational.]

Administration.

868. With the reconstitution of the provinces on 1st April 1912, education in the five divisions (Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong) passed under the control of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal. But during 1911-1912 the three latter divisions were within the jurisdiction of the Director of Public Instruction of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Proposals were submitted for the improvement of the Indian Educational Service and the Provincial Educational Service. These proposals, however, will not be proceeded with, as the recently appointed Public Services Commission will deal with the question. The ungrading of the Lower Subordinate Educational Service and the institution of a separate cadre for subordinate inspecting officers in Bengal were decided on, but had to be deferred owing to the re-constitution of the provinces.

Primary education.

869. The number of pupils receiving primary instruction continued to increase, though in some districts the number of schools decreased. This decrease is due to the weeding out of inefficient schools. A new set of rules for the payment of grants-in-aid was framed by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in April 1911, in consultation with executive and educational officers. It is too early to say how the new rules will work. The total

expenditure on primary education also increased, but contributions from District Boards and Municipalities were proportionately smaller. The tendency to impose a larger share of the cost of primary schools on public revenues seems to have been at least temporarily arrested. The new curriculum for primary schools in Eastern Bengal came into force on 1st January 1912.

Secondary education.

870. An indication of the unpopularity of purely vernacular education is given by the further decline in the number of Middle Vernacular schools. This decrease was more than compensated by the increase in the number of Middle English schools. This waning popularity of Middle Vernacular schools is much to be regretted, as they form the recruiting ground for efficient vernacular teachers. It is hoped to do something for these schools by increasing the number of scholarships. In regard to Middle English schools, efforts were made to insist on a proper scale of staff and equipment, but in the absence of funds and a larger inspecting staff little can be done to bring the Middle English schools up to a reasonable standard of efficiency. As a result of University inspection, High schools have been improved to a certain extent in respect of staff, buildings, equipment and libraries. But the condition of a large proportion of the unaided schools is still unsatisfactory both as regards general efficiency and in respect of tone and discipline. During the year the Government of India made a further non-recurring grant for education, part of which was allotted to school hostels.

Collegiate education.

871. The number of Arts Colleges remained stationary, but the number of students increased. The new laboratory for Physics, Physiology and Botany in the Presidency College was occupied in July 1912 : it is expected that the new geological laboratory will be occupied after the *Durga Puja* vacation of 1912. Of the physics laboratory the Principal remarks that it is "in extent and equipment probably deserving recognition among the best in the world." Colleges continued to receive Government grants for the improvement of laboratories, libraries and buildings. The private colleges, however, are still in urgent need of financial help to bring about the improvements rendered necessary by the introduction of the new University Regulations. The Director has therefore recommended that the grant of 1 lakh from Imperial revenues should be devoted solely to the general improvement of non-Government Colleges. During 1911-12 the Government of India made a further non-recurring grant of 24½ lakhs for education. The chief items of this were an allotment of Rs. 12½ lakhs for hostels and one of 8 lakhs for the improvement of the Presidency College. The hostel grant is divided into 6 lakhs for Calcutta collegiate hostels, 3 lakhs for mufassal collegiate hostels and 3½ lakhs for mufassal school hostels. Of the 8 lakhs for the improvement of the Presidency College, a sum of Rs. 4,46,000 was devoted to the provision of a site and building for the new laboratories. The balance will be spent on the acquisition of land for a new hostel for the college. It was found possible to spend only 7 lakhs of the allotment in 1911-1912 : the balance of 17½ lakhs was surrendered for re-allotment in 1912-1913.

University examinations.

872. Of the 5,312 candidates who appeared at the Matriculation examination, 3,371 passed, an increase of 1,558 and 719 respectively on the figures of the previous year. The percentage of passes (63·4) is less than the percentage (70·6) in 1910-1911, when it was unusually high. The percentage of passes in the first division to the total number of passes has been steadily increasing till it has culminated in the present year, when 50·9 per cent. passed in the first division. The consensus of opinion is that the result is not due to improved teaching, but that the examination is easier to pass than it was under the old regulations. Similar results are visible in the I. A., I. Sc. and B. A. examinations. A notable increase occurred in the numbers of those graduating M. A. and M. Sc., the figures for 1911-1912 being 153 and 56 as compared with 74 and 11 in the previous year.

Education of Indian girls and women.

873. Collegiate education for women continues to make slow progress. Thirty candidates appeared in the Matriculation, 10 in the Intermediate Arts and 8 in the B. A. examination in 1911-1912, as compared with 20, 4 and 6 respectively, five years ago. Land has been acquired for erecting a separate building for the Bethune College apart from the school. A new hostel is also to be built. The new college building of the Diocesan College was opened

after the close of the year. The number of Middle English schools is declining, whereas Middle Vernacular schools are increasing, a tendency the reverse of that which obtains in the case of boys' schools. This is because of the early marriage of girls. The number of girls sent to primary schools continues to increase, but parents still manifest little desire to keep their girls at school for longer periods. The industrial education of girls in connection with the Church of Scotland Mission at Kalimpong is making good progress. Further progress of female education generally is a question, first and foremost, of more liberal expenditure, and, secondarily, of overcoming prejudices and of finding and training competent teachers. Many parents would not mind sending their daughters, even after marriage, to a public school under female teachers and under female supervision.

Education of Europeans.

874. Almost all the Managers of European schools concur in the opinion that the new Code which came into force in January 1911 is a great improvement on the old Code, and that it is working quite satisfactorily. The grants-in-aid to secondary schools have been raised; but, in view of the increased demands made on schools by the new Code, a still further enhancement is desirable. A special recurring grant of Rs. 65,000 from Imperial funds was made in 1911-1912. The share of the Delhi grant allotted to Bengal as constituted on 1st April 1912 is Rs. 1,50,000 for European education. The grading of schools under the new classification continues. Some schools were confirmed in the grade in which they were originally placed, while a few continue to be provisionally graded. Some elementary schools have since applied for secondary grading. Instruction in science is steadily improving, but manual training is still largely unprovided for chiefly owing to the want of qualified teachers. The supplementary courses are gradually winning their way into public favour, and have already elicited the approval of those who are acquainted with the educational wants of the poorer classes of Anglo-Indians. A proposal is at present under consideration for the institution of a State scholarship for women. The preponderance of Roman Catholic schools is still maintained, for the number of pupils educated in Roman Catholic schools at the end of March 1912 was more than half the total number of children under instruction.

Education of Muhammadans.

875. Progress continued to be made in introducing the reforms recommended in Sir Archdale Earle's scheme for the improvement for Muhammadan education. Funds have been allotted for increasing the pay of the existing Inspecting Maulvis and for appointing additional Maulvis on the new rates of pay. Departmental or model *maktabs* have been opened, and some *guru*-training schools have been converted into *mianji* schools, *i.e.*, schools for the training of Muhammadan primary school teachers. Additional grants-in-aid were given to *maktabs*, and progress continues to be made in the regularization of existing *maktabs* and in the establishment of new ones. The increase of Muhammadans is more than in proportion to the increase of the total number of pupils under instruction, but the scarcity of Muhammadans in institutions other than primary schools still continues. Gradual progress is, however, being made. In the Calcutta Madrassah 144 students took the English course against 97 in 1910-1911. The Elliot Madrassah Hostel contained 125 and the Baker Madrassah Hostel (built in 1910) contained 95 boarders at the end of 1911-1912. Still more room is, however, required, and further additions are contemplated. The number of Muhammadan candidates successful in the M.A., B.A., Intermediate and Matriculation Examinations in 1911-1912 was 10, 36, 106 and 261, against 3, 26, 97 and 233 respectively in the previous year.

Training of teachers.

876. The outturn of the existing training colleges is small compared with the field to be covered. The Inspectors of Schools, however, report most favourably of the work of the B. T.'s. and L. T.'s. who have passed through the colleges and are now actively employed. Most of those under training are teachers in Government schools. It has not yet been found possible to extend the scope and resources of existing training colleges so as to provide for the training of many teachers in private institutions. Grants have been given to improve the equipment and educational appliances of the training schools. The practice of sending teachers and subordinate inspecting officers to the training schools for a six weeks' course of training

in the modern methods of teaching still continues, but the arrangement is considered unsatisfactory, as it interferes with the regular working of the training schools and does little good to those attending the course. In 1911-1912 one lakh was appropriated to the provision of new and improved buildings for *guru*-training schools from the Imperial grant of 2 lakhs for primary schools. A scheme is under consideration for opening in connection with the Calcutta Hindu Female Training College, classes for the training of secondary teachers. Such classes are urgently required.

Literature and the Press.

(Statistics of British India, Part VII, Educational.)

Bengal Library.

877. The number of publications registered and catalogued during the year was 4,462 against 4,358 in 1910. Of these, 2,996 were books and 1,466 periodicals. The latter represented 178 different periodicals, 91 of which are written in Bengali and 59 in English. During the year 35 new journals were started and 28 old ones became defunct. In Eastern Bengal the number of publications received fell from 530 to 420. No less than 267 of these were of a scholastic nature, 219 being ordinary school books and 48 keys. The literary product of Eastern Bengal in fact consists of a series of publications of no particular character or tendency.

Literary Publications.

878. Many original and readable biographies were published, showing that public interest in this branch of literature is growing. These works related to the lives of famous Bengali writers, religious reformers and publicists. One of the most noticeable is *The Life of Girish Chandra Ghose*, who was the founder and first editor of the *Bengalee* newspaper. Drama is represented by a large number of social plays, mostly of an inferior character, which have for their subject the ruinous expenses of Hindu weddings. Religious dramas are better written. *The Hero and the Nymph*, an English translation by Mr. Arabinda Ghose of Kalidas's *Vikromorvasie*, dealing with the love between a king of Hindu mythology and a nymph of Indra's Court, is said to possess great literary merit. There were few really good works of fiction. The greater portion of them consisted of sensational detective stories translated or adapted from English novelists. It is noticeable, however, that Bengali fiction is becoming less sentimental. Questions of real life are now being treated by some of the best writers. Their love stories are often merely the setting for pictures of social reform or the teaching of liberal views on the subjects of widow re-marriage, female emancipation and the improvement of village life. *Swadeshi* ideas and the doctrine of self-help have also been introduced into some of the best works. Among historical works, besides a number of local histories, may be mentioned the concluding part of Mr. Pringle Kennedy's *History of the Great Moghuls* in English. One of the most useful and interesting works published during the year was the *History of Bengalee Language and Literature* by Babu Dines Chandra Sen, Reader in Bengali to the University. It treats in a comprehensive manner of the Bengali language and literature from the earliest times down to 1850, and was published under the auspices of the University. The first work of its kind written in English by a Bengali writer is *Kalidas—His Poetry and Mind* by Akhil Chandra Chatterji, a critical study written after the manner of European critics like Dowden. As usual the amount of religious literature published was not only the largest, but the most varied in character. Vaishnavism is finding a larger number of exponents every year, and two important works on Buddhism were issued from the press. One of these works *Modern Buddhism and its followers in Orissa* by Babu Nagendra Nath Basu, an antiquarian of repute, is the result of archæological researches in the Feudatory State of Mayurbhanj. Books of travel are becoming increasingly popular. The best was the late Sister Nivedita's (Miss Noble's) *The Northern Tirtha:* a pilgrim's diary, which records her experiences of a journey from Hardwar to Badri Narayan, a Hindu shrine in the Himalayas. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal told the story of her journey to Mecca and back in fluent and pure English in a

book entitled *The Story of a pilgrimage to Hedjaz.* On the whole, the year was poor in the quality of its literature. In point of quantity also the activity of the previous three years was arrested as regards vernacular literature. The number of books published in Bengali fell off by 177, a result which may possibly be due to the Indian Press Act of 1910.

Working of the Indian Press Act.

879. As in the previous year, revolutionary doctrines were expounded by some publications, but in a more subtle and veiled form, a change which may be considered to be all for the good. There were three forfeitures of anonymous Bengali leaflets and one of a Bengali pamphlet by a Muhammadan author; security was demanded in four instances, and warnings issued in six instances, and 10 books, principally dramas, were surrendered. The Act was worked with considerable restraint and moderation.

The Indian Press.

880. During the year the total number of newspapers and periodicals published was 348, of which 243 were published in Calcutta. One of the most noticeable journalistic tendencies was the growth of the Muhammadan Press. The circulation of the *Muhammadi* doubled, and a new paper called the *Moslem Hitaishi* was started with a circulation of over 5,000 copies. An English weekly called the *Comrade* was also started purely in Muhammadan interests. The *Herald*, the first daily newspaper in English published in Eastern Bengal, appeared towards the end of the year. There was an increase in the cleavage between the Indian papers in Calcutta, such as the *Bengalee* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the English papers such as the *Statesman* and *Englishman*. The *Hitabadi*, as in the previous year, was the most widely read paper, either English or vernacular, and had a circulation of 30,000 copies. Next came the *Sulabh Samachar* with a circulation of 25,000, the *Basumati* with 20,000, the *Statesman* with 18,000 and the *Englishman* and *Bengalee* with 15,000 each. The largest circulation enjoyed by any paper in Eastern Bengal was that of the *Biswabarta*, a paper started during the year, with a circulation of 12,000 copies, of which 11,000 were taken by Government.

Topics discussed in the Press.

881. The political troubles in Persia, and the Turko-Italian war received considerable attention in the Indian Press, especially in the Muhammadan section. The press was unanimous in condemning the insincerity which was alleged to characterize Europe's foreign policy. As in previous years, the police continued to attract the greatest amount of attention from the Indian press, and much of its unfavourable criticism was centred round the alleged increase of dacoities in the two Bengals. The two political cases that caused most discussion were the Howrah Gang case and the Midnapore Damage suit, and the treatment of under-trial political prisoners in jail received sympathetic attention. Other matters which attracted special notice were the Royal visit, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, the Calcutta Improvement Act, the Indian Factories Act, the Special Marriage Act (Amendment) Bill and the Elementary Education Bill. On the whole, a spirit of moderation in the discussion of public questions was manifest in the writings of the leading vernacular papers. This result was due partly to the announcement of the Royal visit and probably in some measure to the suppression of the *Daily Hitabadi* under the Indian Press Act in the early part of the year. Finally it would appear that the Press in Bengal is becoming more democratic: it is losing respect for aristocratic lineage and the holders of landed property: the forces of conservatism, so far as they are reflected in the Press, are losing ground.

Subsidised Newspapers.

882. Almost the entire press objected to the subsidising of the *Sulabh Samachar* and the *Biswabarta* by the Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam. The *Biswabarta*, it is said, was not conducted with marked ability, was rather colourless and uninteresting and had little influence. As regards the *Sulabh Samachar*, the consensus of opinion is that the paper was well received by the public for whom it was intended and that its effect was salutary. The publishers received large numbers of appreciative letters and eagerness was shown to obtain copies. It reached, by means of a carefully devised scheme of circulation, a large public which did not read any papers at all before: and there is a danger that, after the public has become accustomed to newspaper-reading, it will take to less reputable papers now that the distribution of these papers by Government has ceased.

Scientific and Literary Societies in Bengal.

Presidency Division.

883. The Societies in the Presidency Division, which are generally public libraries intended for the promotion of the knowledge of literature—English, Sanskrit and Bengali—are mostly situated in the town of Calcutta. There are in all 39 societies.

The most prominent and most influential of the literary Societies in the Province is the Asiatic Society of Bengal. This Society is well known throughout Europe in scientific circles, and has done most important work during the 129 years of its existence. Its objects are those described in the language of its founder, Sir William Jones: "The bounds of its investigations will be the geographical limits of Asia, and within those limits its enquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man or produced by Nature. It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquarians, philologers and men of science in different parts of Asia will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society at Calcutta. It will languish if such communications shall be long intermitted; and it will die away if they shall entirely cease."

Other societies worthy of mention are: (1) the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, founded in 1820 by the famous Baptist Missionary of Serampore, Dr. Carey; (2) the "Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians" established in 1904 which provides scholarships for young men to acquire technical education principally in Japan and America and receives a yearly grant of Rs. 5,000 from Government; (3) the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Calcutta, established in 1894, for the promotion of literary, scientific and educational work. Government has recently decided to give it a yearly grant of Rs. 1,200. The Sashipada Institute at Baranagar has a library, a girls' school and an evening club for workmen who are taught to read. The Moslem Reading-room at the head-quarters of the Basirhat subdivision aims at spreading education among the Muhammadans. This is also the avowed object of several district Anjumans, but they really deal with a wide variety of subjects and are partly political in character.

Burdwan Division.

884. The following are the most important literary societies in the Division:—

(1) The Uttarpara Hitakari Sabha in the Hooghly district.
(2) The Ghatal Sanskrit Samiti
(3) The Contai Sahitya Sabha } in the Midnapore district.
(4) The Bijoy Chatuspathi at Burdwan.

The object of the Uttarpara Hitakari Sabha is the furtherance of female education by the award of scholarships to successful girls on the results of the examination held under its patronage. The other societies help in the spread of Sanskrit education and send up candidates for the Departmental Sanskrit examinations. There are a few public libraries, of which the following deserve mention:—(1) the Hooghly; (2) Uttarpara and (3) Serampore Public Libraries; (4) the Burdwan Raj Public Library; (5) the Midnapore, (6) the Bishnupur Libraries and (7) the Ramranjan Town Hall Library in Birbhum. These libraries supply to a certain extent the requirements of the Association public.

Dacca Division.

885. Thirteen societies are reported to exist in the Dacca Division. The Dacca Saraswat Samaj does good work in spreading Sanskrit learning both in this and other divisions. The principal object of the Faridpur Suhid Sabha is to spread female education and the Patuakhali Club combines social with literary objects. The Bangiya Sahitya Parisad of Backergunge is entirely a literary institution, but most associations have for their main objects the social and educational advancement of their communities. Of this nature are the Anjumans at Barisal, Mymensingh, Madaripur, Goalundo and other places, and the "Namasudra Society" at Dacca. In addition there are public libraries intended for literary and moral culture. In Dacca town is the Northbrook Hall Library. It was established in 1882, and contains about 5,000

volumes and subscribes to a certain number of newspapers and magazines both English and Indian. Although the monthly subscription is small, the institution receives but scanty support from the public, and is not in a flourishing condition. There is also a small library known as the Rammohan Rai Library maintained by the Brahmo Somaj community. In Mymensingh the Hemanga Library at Sherpur and the Ramesh Chandra Dutt Library at Tangail deserve mention. They contain 6,097 and 1,050 books respectively. The Barisal Public Library was established in 1858 and contains 2,239 books.

Rajshahi Division.

886. Most of the societies in the Rajshahi Division, which can be called literary, are public libraries, of which there are 18. Small museums containing objects of antiquarian interest have been started in connection with the public libraries at Bogra and Rajshahi, and it is proposed to remove the collection of the Rangpur Sahitya Parishad to the public library there. There are other associations whose objects are rather religious and social than purely literary. At the Boalia Dharma Sabha, theological lectures are delivered and sacred books read. The Bogra Literary Society is deserving of notice. Many of the district Anjumans show activity in improving the education and general condition of the Muhammadans. The object of the Malda Association is to improve the status of the inhabitants of the district and to send boys to Japan and other foreign countries for education. The Anjuman Islamia Salima of Malda aims at imparting religious and moral training to Muhammadans and has established a madrassah from its funds. Many associations, however, exist only in names.

Chittagong Division.

887. There are only four libraries of any importance in this division. The Buckland Ghat Public Library of Chittagong was started in 1904 and the number of readers is daily increasing. A library was started at Cox's Bazar in 1906. The Commilla Bir Chandra Public Library has 2,382 volumes and subscribes to a number of magazines and newspapers. The library and reading-room at Noakhali are patronized both by officials and non-officials of the town. Other societies are more of a social nature, though educational objects predominate in the Noakhali Suhrid Sanmilani, which conducts Sanskrit examinations. The Tippera Mussalman Educational Society has founded a number of stipends for poor and deserving Muhammadan boys reading in colleges and High schools, and the Tippera Hitashadhini Sabha conducts examinations of adult females and grants prizes.

Arts and Sciences.

Calcutta School of Art.

888. Two hundred and eighty students were attending the school on the 31st March 1912. Of the 280 students, 257 were Hindus, 12 Muhammadans, 5 Indian Christians, 4 Europeans and 2 Buddhists. Three of the Europeans were females. Twenty-five students appeared at the final examination in 1911 and 17 qualified. The examinations of the higher classes were postponed till August 1912, because of the employment of so many of the students in the decoration of the City of Calcutta for the visit of the King and Queen in December 1911. Their work on that occasion was much appreciated. It is contemplated to start a modelling studio in connection with the Industrial Department. Very satisfactory progress has been made in the Drafting Department, and several passed students have been appointed draftsmen in the Survey of India Drawing Office. Studies of oriental subjects in the Indian style were produced in the Fine Arts Department during the year. On the 1st April 1911 the Art Gallery was combined with the Artware Court of the Indian Museum to form the Art section of that institution. Three other Schools of Art exist in Calcutta and had 330 students on their rolls on the 31st March 1912. The expenditure on these institutions was Rs. 41,080. Two of them received grants of Rs. 125 and Rs. 215 from the Calcutta Municipality; the third was unaided.

Music.

889. There are three music schools in the Bankura district, two of which receive Government grants. The two aided schools have 38 pupils, and one unaided school has 17.

Technical Colleges and Schools, Sibpur College.

890 On the 31st March 1912 there were 319 students of all classes on the rolls of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. The numbers in the various departments were 95 in the Engineering Department, 181 in the Apprentice Department, 10 in the Industrial Chemistry Department and 33 in the Artisan classes. Only five Muhammadans attended the college—exactly the same number as attended five years ago. The total direct expenditure on the college during the year amounted to Rs. 2,33,304, of which Rs. 2,04,932 came from Provincial revenues. The figures include a special grant of Rs. 12,230 spent on the equipment of the Tinctorial Chemistry Department and the improvement of the workshops. A special grant of Rs. 50,000 has been made to Sibpur out of the Delhi grant. In 1911-1912, 19 candidates appeared for the B. E., and 16 passed; 31 appeared for the I. E., and 31 passed. The question of the removal of Sibpur College is still undecided. The matter was referred by Government at the beginning of 1912 to a large and representative committee for consideration; and though a definite decision has not yet been arrived at, the probabilities are that, in accordance with the general tenor of the recommendations of the committee, a Technological Institute will be established in Calcutta, the mining classes will be moved to Asansol, and the Civil Engineering Department to a residential college in the mufassal, most probably in connection with the proposed Dacca University.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

891. A new scheme was brought into force from April 1910, by which classes for practical instruction in surveying, lasting for six weeks, were to be opened in January and February 1911 at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, and the Dacca School of Engineering. The first examination under the new scheme was held in February 1912, and of 24 applicants five passed. There were three cases of cheating, which were dealt with by the Examination Board.

Other Technical Schools.

892. The newly appointed Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions was appointed Secretary of the Joint-Technical Examination Board from November 1911 in place of the Principal of the Sibpur College. The technical schools in various mufussal towns continued to teach up to the Sub-Overseer standard. The "B" classes which aim at giving a more practical turn to school education have not proved a success. The whole question of these classes will shortly come under review.

Commercial schools.

893. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, was established on a permanent basis in 1911. There were 23 students in the first and 28 in the second year as compared with 37 and 13 in 1910. Classes in Reporters' Shorthand, Political Economy and Mercantile Law were opened during the year. In November 1911 Government adopted the course of studies prescribed for the Commercial Final Examination as the course to be studied for the examination for the clerical service of the Secretariat. The "C" classes continue to decline in popularity. It is proposed to abolish them and to incorporate courses corresponding to those prescribed for the "C" classes in the proposed school final scheme.

Industrial education.

894. The number of applications for admission to the Serampore Weaving Institute increases yearly. On the 31st March 1912 there were in all 64 students on the roll, and in 1912 the fourth batch of new students was enrolled. Out of 150 applicants, 26 were selected. The school cost Rs. 27,000 during the year, including Rs. 6,922 for scholarships which was defrayed from Provincial revenues. The numbers in the Sibpur Artisan classes fell from 40 to 34. The college offers pupils very small stipends, and it is difficult to keep them long enough to complete the full course on account of the great local demand for labour. A number of mufassal handicraft schools continued to exist, but the system of industrial education has not yet been placed on a satisfactory footing.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Monuments and antiquities.

895. The thorough repairs of the Damodar Mandir at Sonatore in the district of Birbhum, which were taken in hand in 1910-1911, were completed.

Special repairs were executed to seven buildings at Gour in the district of Malda, and to three buildings at Pandua in the same district, as well as to the mosque at Bagha in the district of Rajshahi.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Bishop of Calcutta and Archdeacon of Calcutta, 1814.

896. The Presidency of Bengal lies within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta. By the Statute 53, Geo. III, Chapter 155, provision was made for the appointment of a single Bishop for the whole of India, and the Sovereign was empowered to grant to the Bishop such ecclesiastical jurisdiction and the exercise of such episcopal functions as His Majesty might think necessary for the administration of holy ceremonies and for the superintendence and good government of the ministers of the Church establishment. Under the authority of this statute, Letters Patent for the Bishopric of Calcutta were issued under the date of the 2nd of May 1814, establishing the See of Calcutta, subordinate to the Archiepiscopal See of the Province of Canterbury and constituting the Archdeaconry of Calcutta. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta and the Members of the Council were appointed the King's Commissioners delegate to hear appeals from the decisions of the Bishop and his Commissaries.

Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan, 1835.

897. The Statutes 3 and 4, Will. IV, Chapter 85, empowered the Sovereign to found and constitute the Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay, and constituted the Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan. The Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay were accordingly constituted by Letters Patent, leaving the Metropolitical jurisdiction with the Bishop of Calcutta. The jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta has also been further curtailed by the subsequent formation of the Bishoprics of Lahore, Rangoon, Lucknow and Nagpur.

Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 1835.

898. The Statutes 3 and 4, Will. IV, Chapter 85, also provided for the appointment of two Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, to be inducted and ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh according to the forms and solemnities used in the Church of Scotland, and to be subject to the spiritual and ecclesiastical jurisdiction in all things of the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

899. Under the Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872, the Local Government has power to give licenses to ministers of religion to solemnize marriages, to appoint marriage registrars, and to license persons to grant certificates of marriage between Christians, but in other respects it exercises no ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

900. The ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, sixteen Chaplains of the Church of England, the senior and the second Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, seven Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice-Meuleman, S.J., and four Priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1911—Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

Total of cases.

901. The number of articles examined rose from 6,959 in 1910 to 8,208 in 1911, and was the largest number recorded during the last quinquennium. This increase is solely due to a larger number of samples of cocaine examined, viz., 2,138 against 621 of the previous year.

Analyses.

902. In the General Analytical Department 4,198 cases were examined against 2,895 in the previous year. The Excise Department sent 55·24 per cent.

of the articles consisting chiefly of cocaine, and the Customs Department 30·89 per cent., other departments contributing the remaining 13·87 per cent. There was a notable decrease in the number of articles sent by the Commissioner of Police and the Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, viz., 3 and 193 against 35 and 448, respectively, in the previous year. Samples of cocaine formed 50·92 per cent. of the total number of articles sent for examination. Next in numerical importance were spirit determination (12·19 per cent.), methylated spirit (11·36 per cent.), caoutchoucine and pyridine (4·81 per cent.) and opium (2·38 per cent.). Only two samples of milk were examined against five of the previous year; both were found to be of good quality.

Medico-legal cases.

903. There was a slight decrease in the number of articles examined in connection with medico-legal cases, viz., 4,010 against 4,064. Of the above cases and articles examined, 1,195 cases and 2,031 articles related to human poisoning, 427 cases and 625 articles to animal poisoning, 437 cases and 1,084 articles to stain cases, and the rest to miscellaneous medico-legal cases and samples of preservative fluid. The number of cases in which human viscera were examined for the detection of poison rose from 805 in 1910 to 833 in 1911, the highest figure recorded during the last quinquennium. Poison was detected in 39·01 per cent., of the cases against 37·63 in 1910. As usual, the most common poison was opium. The number of articles, such as vomit, excreta, etc., examined in connection with human poisoning cases, fell from 1,295 in 1910 to 1,180 in 1911; the percentage of detection of poison in these cases was however higher, being 47·28 against 43·62 of the previous year. The viscera of 291 horned cattle were examined during the year against 284 of the previous year; poison was detected in 138 of them; *i.e.*, 47·42 per cent. against 58·80 per cent. in 1910.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for 1911-1912.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

904. The total number of students on the college rolls at the commencement of the session was 123, of whom 30 came from Bengal, 16 from Bihar 60 from Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the rest from other provinces Thirteen students subsequently left the college for various reasons, leaving 110. Of these, 97 were allowed to go up for the examination and 77 passed.

College Hospital.

905. During the year the numbers of cases treated and operations performed were 5,976 and 1,881, respectively, as compared with 5,869 and 1,771 in the preceding year. The number of animals sent for treatment to the college hospital was only 148 out of 11,330 prosecutions for cruelty to animals. There is reason to believe that many animals in connection with which convictions have been obtained are again compelled to work before they have been cured.

Glanders and farcy in Calcutta.

906. During the year 3,800 stables containing 14,000 horses were inspected against 4,025 stables containing 16,000 horses in the preceding year. In 15 stables glanders was detected as compared with 34 in 1910-1911. The total number of horses admitted to the contagious diseases hospital was 100. In 16 cases the animals were destroyed for glanders and 77 were discharged cured. A sum of Rs. 189 was paid as compensation for the destruction of animals under the Glanders and Farcy Act. During the year rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease were prevalent in Calcutta and suburbs and 2,347 animals were inoculated against rinderpest. About 1,670 cattle byres and 24,930 cattle were inspected by the staff.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

907. The diagnosis of infectious diseases and the examination of pathological and other specimens as well as research work was carried out in this institution as in previous years. Two veterinary graduates from Bengal and two from Eastern Bengal and Assam attended the post-graduate course of training.

Civil Veterinary Department.

908. The total number of deaths from contagious diseases is reported to amount to 8,522, and more than half this number of deaths is said to be due to rinderpest. It is gratifying to observe that greater interest than in previous years is being taken in reporting outbreaks both by members of the

agricultural associations and by private persons. The best available agency for reporting outbreaks is, however, the village *panchayat*. Steps will be taken in the course of this year to impress on presidents and collecting members the importance of reporting outbreaks promptly. Outside Calcutta and the suburbs 21,246 animals were inoculated against contagious diseases. Itinerant assistants treated 52,352 cases as against 54,729 in the preceding year. Assistants have now to classify and enquire into all police returns while they are on tour. Cattle-poisoning appears to be very prevalent in the Presidency Division, especially in Jessore, Khulna and the Sundarbans. Assistants have frequently had poisoning reported to them as rinderpest, and in this way it has been brought to the notice of the authorities.

Dispensaries.

909. There are now 18 dispensaries, one having been opened during the year at Chinsura. The total number of in and out-patients treated was 17,289 as against 20,293 in the previous year. This falling off in number was very largely due to a large decrease in the number of out-patients treated in the Dacca Dispensary. It is explained that this large decrease is due to the fact that a much smaller number of animals were seized under the Cruelty Act. This result cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and steps will be taken to bring the matter to the notice of trying courts in Dacca.

Breeding of cattle.

910. The important question of improving the breed of cattle has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. The demand for bulls for breeding purposes is on the increase, but the indigenous stock is poor and fodder is often deficient. The complaint that no attempt is made to select the best cows for breeding and that immature bulls are allowed to cover the herd is general and well-founded, but no efficient remedies for such difficulties have been found during the past 15 years. The Director of Agriculture is preparing a scheme for improving the livestock of the province.

Staff.

911. The strength of the subordinate staff under the control of the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, is now 5 Inspectors and 59 veterinary assistants. For want of funds many District Boards are unable to employ more men than they now have, though additional assistants are urgently needed in some cases to cope with outbreaks. The conditions of pay and travelling allowance of veterinary assistants in West Bengal and East Bengal are not the same, and the Superintendent of the Veterinary Department is at present working at a scheme under which conditions throughout the province will be uniform.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee, 1911-1912.]

Buildings.

912. The most important new work carried out during the year was the reconstruction of the Schwendler House. The primitive old building was dismantled and a large and lofty aviary erected in its place. Improvements were also made in the Kangaroo Enclosure, the Reptile House and small Carnivora House, adding greatly to the comfort of the inmates.

Finance and Statistics.

913. The financial condition of the garden is satisfactory. The receipts from visitors increased from Rs. 42,018 to Rs. 48,496. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,04,943. Expenditure was Rs. 97,958, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 6,985. The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the end of the year was 654, 1,612 and 127, respectively. There was a decrease of 132 in the number of reptiles. The fine collection of animals presented to His Majesty by the Nepal Durbar was accommodated in the garden prior to their despatch to London, and attracted many visitors.

Visitors.

914. Their Majesties visited the garden on the 30th December, accompanied by Their Excellencies the Lord and Lady Hardinge. The total number of paying visitors increased from 92,029 to 629,151. Besides these, 51,154 persons visited the garden on the free-days. The garden was, as usual, free to the public on one day per month.

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THE PRESIDENCY
OF
BENGAL
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or 1:2,027,520.
NOTE — The longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich meridian.
TIBET
BHUTAN
NEPAL
ORISSA
ASSAM
SIKKIM
GANGTOK
DARJEELING
JALPAIGURI
COOCH BEHAR
GOALPARA
GARO HILLS
KHASI HILLS
SYLHET
LUSHAI
PURNEA
SONTHAL PARGANAS
MALDA
RAJSHAHI
BOGRA
MYMENSINGH
MYMENSINGH
DACCA
AGARTALLA
COMILLA
PABNA
BERHAMPORE
KRISHNAGAR
JESSORE
BANKURA
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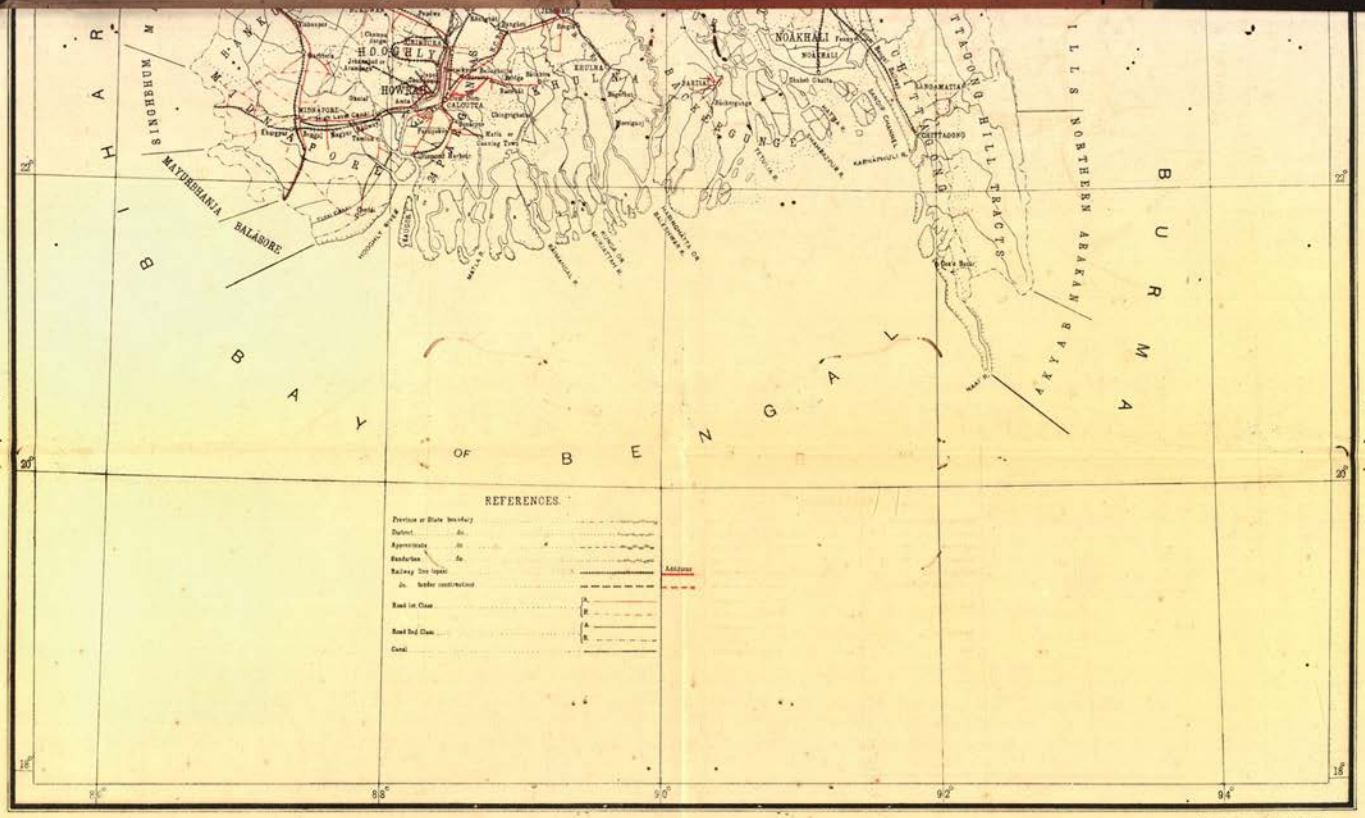

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